



CALHOUN COUNTY

Road Commission Task Force

Minutes
May 17, 2012

Law Library
Conference
Room
315 W. Green St.
Marshall, MI
49068
(269)781-0966

1. Call to Order

Present: Members Sweet, Behnke, VanSickle, Frisbie, Kale and Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey, Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox, Human Resources Director Kim Archambault and Deputy Clerk Chris McComb

2. Approval of Agenda

“Moved Member VanSickle, supported by Member Behnke to approve the agenda of the May 17, 2012 Road Commission Task Force meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

“Moved Member Frisbie, supported by Member Behnke to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2012 Road Commission Task Force meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

4. Public Comment

Steve Swafford, Homer Township Trustee, stated the 11 or 12 employees attending the meeting shows they were willing to help the Task Force in any way.

Bill Morris of Marshall stated he believed the roads were bad and there needed to be more communication with the public.

Allen Huffman of Homer talked about issues he had with the Road Commission's tire clean up contracting process.

Dick Sweet

Rob Behnke

*Blaine
VanSickle*

Steve Frisbie

Art Kale

Tommy Miller, Road Commission employee, commented on what he believed was the Road Commission's lack of employee training and flawed procedures.

David Nelson of Albion described problems with houses in his neighborhood he believed was from the vibration of trucks going down his road.

Dale Jenks of Marshall Township presented the Task Force with the names and numbers of employees who were willing to work with the Task Force.

Mike Covert of Lee Township stated he believed the employees were doing the best they could with what they were given.

Charlie Monaweck of Athens Township commented on the responsibilities of the County Board of Commissioners and the Road Commissioners.

Chris Vreeland of Fredonia Township believed Calhoun County should wait to see how the Road Commission Board elimination works in Ingham County before trying it. He also encouraged the Task Force to feel free to call him or any other Road Commissioner to ask questions.

5. Proposed Due Diligence Analysis from Rehmann Robson

Dave Fisher of Rehmann Robson described the two phases of the Road Commission Analysis they were proposing. He stated Rehmann Robson had several Road Commissions as clients and were familiar with their operations. He explained the first phase of the analysis would compare the Calhoun County Road Commission's financials from the last 15 years to other counties then provide a summary. Fisher stated the second phase of the analysis would show opportunities for cost savings if the Road Commission Board was eliminated. He explained a representative sample would include seven other counties and the only counties that have gone through the process at this point were Ingham and Monroe, though he heard there may be more coming. Fisher explained the first phase would take about 10 business days once they get all the information. He stated it would be another 10 or 12 days for the next phase but it depends on if any meetings are needed.

Scott stated one of the benefits of the agreement was a not to exceed price for both phases if done together that could not be guaranteed if the phases were done separately. She inquired what information would be brought forth in phase 2 that would be more beneficial than just going with phase 1.

Fisher stated it would give everyone an idea of what changes may be beneficial for finances, such as consolidation of employee benefits.

Frisbie believed this was valuable information no matter what the Task Force's decision was and the report would be dollars well spent.

“Moved Member Frisbie, supported by Member Behnke to accept the proposal as outlined by Rehmann Robson for Phase 1 and 2, not to exceed \$9150 as stated in proposal, with completion of both phases by June 18.”

On a roll call vote, Yes - 5.

6. Review of Requested Materials from Calhoun County Road Commission

Scott stated there were 45 Road Commission Board Policies, most created in the 80's and 90's and all were reviewed during Board workshops, the last being in 2010. She stated the Task Force was given a policy summary and compilation of comments from their review, which the Executive Team reviewed and would answer any questions regarding comparisons to the County policies.

Kale stated they would discuss the comments then would come up with a list of questions for the Road Commission.

The Task Force reviewed comments brought forth on each policy then asked staff to review the Road Commission policies and let the Task Force know if they believed something was missing.

7. Set Future Meeting Schedule

Kale discussed the meeting schedule and stated he believed it was prudent to keep moving forward after talking to Road Commission employees. He stated Road Commission Director Henning and Assistant Director Crumpton had been very helpful and there was an expectation the Task Force would get information on a timely basis. He stated per law the Board will need to have two public hearings before making a decision.

Scott noted the Road Commission would distribute paper surveys to employees that could be sent directly to the Task Force or returned in sealed envelopes to the Road Commission and they would forward to the Task Force.

The Task Force held discussion on the timeline for presenting their recommendation to the Board of Commissioners as well as the two public hearings and vote and asked staff to revise the timeline to move it back two weeks.

8. Task Force Member Comments

Kale stated the comment had been made to wait for Ingham County but he didn't believe Calhoun County should wait because Ingham may be doing things differently.

9. Public Comment

Allen Huffman of Homer commented on the County and Department of Environmental Quality's scrap tire programs. He also commented on the appointment process of the Road Commissioners.

Nick Collier of Marshall believed the Task Force should look into the everyday workings of the Road Commission and listen to what the information the employees give them.

10. Staff Comments

Corporation Counsel Lindsey reminded everyone that the Road Commission is a separate legal entity from the County itself, we are not their employer and the County cannot act on anything against the Road Commission.

11. Adjourn

The May 17, 2012 meeting of the Calhoun County Road Commission Task Force adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McComb
Deputy Clerk