



NYE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 21, 2021

9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Blundo
Commissioner Jabbour
Mr. Dan Schinhofen

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF: Mr. Tom Bolling
Mr. Tim Dahl
Ms. Lynnette Atkinson
Ms. Michelle Blodgett

Commissioner Blundo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER/MEMBER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jabbour stated that he toured the Town of Belmont and he would like Director Dahl to give an update on the Crest Road project.

Mr. Dahl stated that Crest Road has been going back and forth through the courts for a while and although there is Nye County ROW on that road, it is inaccessible. The Northern Road Maintenance Supervisor has cut that road in. Mr. Dahl will take a trip up there to look at it.

Commissioner Jabbour stated that the road is very dangerous and all we can do is fix our area of the road. Mr. Dahl stated that other sections of Belmont Road will also be addressed. Mr. Dahl has also applied for an NFLAP Grant for Belmont Road.

Mr. Schinhofen asked if we could get the State to take that road back. There is a portion of the road by the bin station that needs to be chipped. Mr. Dahl stated that a year or so ago that was done. He does have a list of priorities to do in Belmont still though.

Mr. Dahl stated that he has submitted the NFLAP Grant for Bell Vista from SR 160 to Stateline. This is a 2-part grant from SR 160 to Warren and Warren to Stateline. NFLAP will make their

decision sometime in July 2021. He also stated that we got a \$10,000 Grant with 5% match to do some preliminary studies and those studies have been done. He would like to continue down the path of obtaining the Grant. Commissioner Blundo asked that there be 3 signature lines on the 6 letters that will go out to our federal representative. Mr. Dahl asked if we should also get letters of support from the BOCC. Commissioner Blundo stated yes.

Mr. Dahl stated that he spoke to the Clark County Public Works regarding Tecopa Road and right now they do not have any plans for any kind of projects from SR 160 to Stateline, through our section which is approximately 4,000 feet. He also spoke with Cal Trans and they do not have anything scheduled other than regular maintenance. Last year Cal Trans put down 300 tons of cold mix on the road in their section of SR 160 into the Town of Tecopa. This year they plan on putting down 200 more. Mr. Dahl stated that we will start maintaining the potholes and the edge of roadway in our section. Mr. Dahl asked the Board if there was anything else they would like for him to do regarding Tecopa Road. Commissioner Blundo stated no, we did all could.

Mr. Dahl updated on Comstock Park regarding who owns the roads. Mr. Dahl stated that he spoke to the HOA representative and basically, they would just like to see the County come in annually and patch potholes. Mr. Dahl told the HOA that anytime an issue arises they can call the office and he will send someone out to take care of the problem. They also wanted to address some obstructions in the ROW which include trees, sheds, fences and cars. Mr. Dahl has the list, and he will see what can be done to correct these issues. He will start sending the property owners violation letters so that he can help the HOA clean up their neighborhood. Mr. Dahl stated that NDOT has a project coming up. They will be doing an overlay on SR 160 from Taco Bell to Betty Ave. Both lanes will be resurfaced.

Mr. Dahl has been talking with Fire Chief, Scott Lewis and he has asked NDOT to take into consideration the Emergency Lights coming out of the Fire Station on the 160. He thinks it is imperative to have lights installed to warn the public of the Emergency vehicles entering the Highway. Mr. Dahl stated that he has volunteered to purchase solar powered flashing lights with remote controls in the vehicles so that we can warn the public. Mr. Dahl stated that NDOT wants to put up warning lights like they did on the Highway in Spring Mountain.

Mr. Dahl stated that the Tonopah sidewalks have been advertised and as soon as we get the bids back, we will get them done.

Mr. Dahl stated that the Chipseal Program has finished up in addition to the change order of a couple of roads that were added to the Pavement Preservation List in Beatty. We are still in discussions with the contractor to hold them accountable for what they were contracted to do. The 10 miles of Chip have been done none-the-less.

Commissioner Blundo stated that he went out there and it looks nice.

Commissioner Jabbour asked when the deadline is for the Tonopah sidewalk bids. Savannah Rucker, Nye County Finance Manager stated that the bids are due May 7th, 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM 3/17/2021 MEETINGS:

Mr. Schinhofen motioned to approve with a correction on page 3. Commissioner Jabbour second. Approved.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION- Discussion and Deliberation regarding the FY 21/22 RTC Budget:

Ms. Savannah Rucker stated that the values associated with the funds on this budget presentation are provided by her office from the Department of Taxation.

Mr. Schinhofen would like clarification on the 10208 funds that we are giving to the Pahrump Valley Transportation and wants to know if they fall within the NRS and NCC. Or if those funds should be taken out the 10207. Savannah stated that she will get together with Director Dahl and if those changes need to be made then they will correct it before it comes back to this board.

Mr. Dahl stated the FY 21/22 budget has a small change to it, but the principles are the same. We have added the line for Member-at-Large Per Diem in the 10208. We have also reduced the Regional Gravel Road Maintenance in 10208 because we have a lot less roads here in Pahrump to maintain however, we still have the cost of maintaining those roads in the outlying areas.

Mr. Dahl stated that there are some changes in the contract for maintaining the intersection lights here in Pahrump. The contractor that we have used in the past has gone out of business and we are trying to find another contractor for the maintenance of those streetlights.

Commissioner Blundo asked where the breakdown is on this budget for the Chipseal Program.

Mr. Dahl stated that its in the line for Pavement Preservation and Materials. Commissioner Blundo asked what the split will be. Mr. Dahl stated that this is just a draft, and it is the pleasure of the Board. He would like to get this approved and then we can go in to define how those funds will be split. Mr. Dahl stated that once this budget is approved, he will compile a list of roads with the analytical data and then this Board can identify which roads will need to be on the Chipseal Program List.

Mr. Schinhofen motioned to approve this draft budget with the changes made for the Pahrump Valley Transportation (if needed). Commissioner Jabbour second. Approved.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION- Discussion and Deliberation regarding 1). Approve the purchase of two (2) minivans for the Pahrump Valley Transportation using the remaining funds from 10208 and 2). Authorize Tim Dahl to approve the invoice when available:

Mr. Schinhofen made a motion for Director Dahl to release the funds once he has been presented with the invoice. Mr. Schinhofen added that in the future he would like to have Mr. Dahl be able to disperse these funds without having to come to this board for approval since the funds are already there. Commissioner Jabbour second.

Mr. Dahl stated the amount is over his threshold of \$10,000.

Commissioner Blundo stated that it would need to come back as a separate agenda item in order for that to happen.

Mr. Eric Whalen of Pahrump Valley Transportation stated that there is not much inventory, so we need to act on it when the invoice comes in.

Mr. Whalen also that they will be expanding up to Beatty and Amargosa and they are in touch with Timary in Tonopah so that they can coordinate with their transportation system to get folks from Tonopah to Beatty. Commissioner Jabbour asked for clarification on the purchasing of vehicles. Mr. Whalen stated that the dealership usually finds vehicles that are 1-2 years old with relatively low miles. (A caller on the line interrupted and was not muted)

Mr. Dahl asked if the questionnaire went out to the residents of Beatty. Mr. Whalen stated that the day he drove out the Community Center it was closed. He did stop at the Senior Center and drop off the questionnaires. Mr. Dahl stated that these questionnaires should be given out the individual boards for distributing.

Mr. Koenig stated that he has been elected on the Board of Directors of the Pahrump Valley Transportation and wanted to reassure this Board that he will be working on expanding this program.

PRESENTATION- by Thomas Bolling regarding the future of Nye County's estimated costs for road maintenance:

Mr. Bolling stated that this presentation is to bring this Board to the attention and need to maintain our roads in Nye County. Mr. Bolling stated that in his research he has found little to almost no road maintenance plan in Nye County. There has been some done but not much over the years. Mr. Bolling stated that in his opinion the roads were not maintained over the years due to lack of dedicated funding.

Mr. Bolling stated that we need a Micro Paver software system to track the condition of the roads. We need to develop a schedule and we also need the funding. Once this has been done, we can then input the information in the software program and from there we can budget for the maintenance and fix our roads.

Commissioner Blundo asked how much it costs per mile for Chipseal. Mr. Bolling stated approx. \$40,000.00. Mr. Bolling stated that for every mile you Chip you must Fog. We should be spending approximately \$6.3 million a year for maintenance on our roads.

Mr. Bolling presented the back up with the costs associated with a maintenance plan. He also gave ideas of how we might receive more funding for our roads, i.e., Diesel Tax and or Property Tax.

If the Board of County Commissioners implemented a \$.05 cent per gallon for Diesel Tax, it would generate approximately \$1MIL a year for road maintenance. If we were to reinstate the Streets & Highways Property Tax, at 0.2% then we could generate another \$3MIL a year.

Mr. Bolling stated that in 2014 this Tax was removed from the Tax Bill. Mr. Schinhofen asked why this Tax was removed from our Property Tax Bill. He would like to know more information on this matter. Mr. Schinhofen also stated that he is in favor for imposing the .05 cent Diesel Tax.

Commissioner Jabbour stated that with the increase of the Fuel Tax we want to be sure that it will only be utilized to fix the roads.

Commissioner Blundo stated that the Property Tax was probably taken off at one of the Tax Budget hearings by the comptroller. The Board can levy any tax they want and back then it may not have been given proper attention. Commissioner Blundo stated that he does not want to impose higher taxes on the citizens of Nye County.

Mr. Schinhofen stated that only 10% of the Gas Tax Funds can be used for administrative costs and the rest MUST be used to fix roads. He would assume that the Diesel Tax would be the same.

Commissioner Blundo opened this item up for Public Comment.

Mr. John Koenig- Stated that the Diesel Tax would be the easiest and best way to get more funding. He also reminded this board that electric cars are going to be a big part of the future and we may not have much gas and fuel tax in the future. He supports the Diesel Tax.

Mr. Joseph LaBossiere- Stated that the DMV charges 3 times the amount to register his electric car. He also stated that they are now using electric trucks, so the fuel tax will not come from those in the future. He thinks it might be best to tax the people.

Mr. Robert Doldy- Stated that he thinks systemizing the assignment of priorities of routine maintenance would be helpful.

Commissioner Strickland- Stated that the presentation Mr. Bolling did was great, and she thinks we need to get this information out to the public and maybe a workshop would help. She also thinks we need to parlay for more Impact Fees for our roads and schools. She is also in favor of the Streets & Highways Tax. The Fuel Tax will be heard at the BOCC so she will not discuss that at this time.

Mr. Schinhofen asked why we are not getting Impact Fees from Mt. Falls.

Mr. Dahl stated that the Development Agreement excluded it. Mr. Schinhofen stated that we should probably look in to why it was that way and renegotiate the Agreement.

Robert Adams- Stated that people will want to know an amount that they will pay for their property if that is the route we take.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION- Discussion and Deliberation regarding the alternate route in to Frontsite:

Mr. Schinhofen asked for this item because we provide Emergency Services out there and the highway is a long road, so he was just looking for an easier and faster route into that area. Mr. Schinhofen stated that it is going to cost roughly 8 million and even if we were able to get 2 million in federal grants, it just does not seem possible at this time. He also stated that if in the future a grant becomes available then we can revisit it.

Commissioner Jabbour stated that he agrees with Mr. Schinhofen. Mr. Dahl stated that he would look to see if there are any future funding that may work for this project. Commissioner Blundo stated there is to be no action taken on this item at this time so that we can bring it back at a future date.

Commissioner Blundo opened this item for Public Comment:

Ammie Nelson- Stated that she agrees with Mr. Schinhofen. She also stated that if contractors are building in those areas, then she thinks they should be paying to help build those roads.

She thinks that if we were to get a grant then it should be for all the roads not just the one in to Frontsite.

Mr. Robert Doldy- Stated that he has 3 Volkswagens, and they all need shocks right now.

Mr. John Koenig- Thanked the Board for not taking any action currently. He thinks we need to fix other roads in our County. Mr. Koenig stated that as far as the Emergency vehicles, they should enter an MOU with us.

Commissioner Strickland- Stated that there are 3 approved projects going up in Frontsite. Those facilities should be working on NEPA's now and it might be a good time to reach out the BLM. We may want to ask Frontsite to work with all of us to get those studies done.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION- Discussion and Deliberation regarding the maintenance in Comstock Park:

Commissioner Blundo opened this up for Public Comment since the Director has already given his update.

No Public Comment at this time.

ACTION: set time and Date for next Meeting:

Mr. Schinhofen made a motion for May 19th at 9:00 am. Commissioner Jabbour second. Approved.

COMMISSIONERS' MEMBERS COMMENTS: (second)

Commissioner Blundo stated that he liked Ms. Strickland public comment and would like staff to look into that. He would also like to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for the Diesel Tax and would also like an update on the Property Tax item. Further Discussion-Commissioner Blundo asked that we either find a way to work the phone system or get rid of it all together. He would prefer in person meetings and not the call-in system.

Mr. Schinhofen stated that he agrees with Commissioner Blundo.

Commissioner Jabbour stated that if we do not have a system for callers to call in properly then we should bring the item forward to remove it all together.

Commissioner Blundo also stated that we have the responsibility to mute our phones on all our ends during a meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: (second)

Helene Williams stated that prior to this meeting there was no disclosure stating that she would have an open mic and would not be mute during the meeting. She feels she has the right to say what she wants in the privacy of her own home and comment at anything she wants. She would like to apologize but feels that is not enough. She would like a disclosure on the Agenda stating that it is an open mic meeting. She also thinks that all Boards should have the same set up for meetings as the BOCC.

Ammie Nelson stated that there are a lot of big trucks that use our streets and maybe we could tell them that they can not use our side streets so that they do not get torn up.

Leah Aldridge stated that she would like us to set these RTC Meetings up the same way as the County Commissioners Meetings. She also stated that she tried calling in 4 times for item 8 but could not get through.

Mr. Joseph LaBossiere stated that Farm Road is the only road that goes through and for some reason last year the Dairy built a pit at the end of Saddleback so there are now more trucks.

1/3 of our community lives in that area. The road is horrible and needs some attention.

Commissioner Strickland asked that we strike the comment made by Helene Williams in the written minutes. She also asked that in the future we have the presentations on the big screen.

Commissioner Blundo re-opened item 11 for further discussion.

ADJOURN:

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynnette Atkinson