

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2012, 8:00 A.M.
OUACHITA BUILDING

A meeting of the Governmental Affairs Committee was held Friday, April 6, 2012, 8:00 a.m. at the Woodlands Auditorium Lobby of the Ponce de Leon Center.

Committee members:

Chair Jim Zahnd, Vice Chair Keith Keck, Tom Arwood (**absent**), Keith Brown, Dick Breckon, Larry Frazer, Paul Pool, Dick Schmidt (**absent**), Lee Solomon, Jerry Yeric, Katherine Winslow (**absent**).

Ex-officio members:

George Bollier, Water
John Lands, Schools (**absent**)
Bob Shoemaker, local and state officials
Harv Shelton, Lakes & Water Comm. Representative (**absent**)

Justices of the Peace attending:

Garland County, J.P., Larry Griffin
Saline County, J.P., Tom Lish (**absent**)

Staff Liaison

Linda Mayhood

Board Liaison

Mike Misch (**absent**)
Bob Brandt

Press

Holly Daste, Village Voice

Guests

Frank Leeming

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Zahnd at 8:00 a.m.

Guests: Chair Zahnd introduced Frank Leeming, Board member elect, and recognized Committee Vice Chair Keith Keck's election to the POA Board of Directors.

Minutes: The minutes of March 9, 2012 were approved as submitted upon motion by Keith Brown, seconded by Jerry Yeric and unanimously approved.

Board Liaison Report: Bob Brandt reported on Board activities for Mike Misch as follows:

- 2012 Road Paving Program

- Proposed Amendment to Article IV of the Bylaws regarding voting of POA owned lots
- Remodeling of Customer Service Area of POA Administration Bldg.
- Conceptual plans of electronic message boards
- Audience comments

Staff Liaison Report: Linda Mayhood reported the following:

- General Manager's Coffee 9:00 a.m. today at Ouachita Bldg.
- Annual Meeting May 7, 3:00 p.m., Ouachita Bldg.
- HSV Board of Realtors open house held last weekend – Next one scheduled for Sept. 8
- Soliciting donations for July 4th fireworks display – events will be held Wed., July 4 thru Sat. July 7. Donations can be sent to POA.
- British week activities June 1-8, National Car Meet at Ponce June 2, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; open to the public; week includes pub crawl and Beatles tribute June 6; first HSV Triathlon June 9
- Arkansas Freedom Fund Tournament held April 23 at Diamante; supports activities that benefits Veteran active duty military, wounded warriors and their families
- POA excess equipment auction by Cox Auctions to be held May 19, 9:00 a.m. at POA pipe yard to include backhoe, vehicles, mowers, air compressor, trailers, 2 pianos, 1 baby grand, furniture, fitness equipment, food wagon, miscellaneous.
- Committee Appreciation Party April 17, 4 to 6:00 p.m., DeSoto Club, including spouses
- Lot sales report – year to date
- New Communications Specialist Lisa Watson

Chair Report:

Chair Zahnd reported:

The Greater HSV Area Chamber of Commerce earlier this week gathered a group to study the processes and options for bringing sewer services to the SH 7 corridor outside HSV's West Gate. The group's initial task was to gather information regarding the history and current status of Sewer Improvement District 43 that the Chamber's Economic Development Committee may advise the organization's full board of directors regarding options for addressing the need for an SID along the SH 7 corridor.

Included in this information gathering and sharing meeting were the GAC chair, Bob Shoemaker, and Garland County JP Larry Griffin.

Committee members to be recommended to the Board for appointment in May are Gerald Allen for 3 yr. term and Jim Harlow for 2 yr. term. Joan Sibel to serve as ex-officio.

Garland County: J.P. Larry Griffin advised:

- A lot of rabid animals have been found in Hot Springs.
- Jail is moving along well

Saline County: J.P. Larry Frazer reported:

Benton Chamber of Commerce Government Civic and Affairs Meeting
March 20, 2011:

The Chamber meeting discussion covered the following:

- The Event Center is on track for fall 2013 opening, construction contractor hired and survey completed, contacting hotel chains for prospects.
- Nothing else of note.

Bryant Chamber of Commerce Government Civic and Affairs Meeting
April 5, 2012:

The Chamber meeting consisted of a discussion of: Not much of note for HSV.

Keith Keck reported non-profit and for profit grants for Saline County discussed at last Quorum Court meeting.

Water: George Bollier reported lot of publicity on Village Water issues – Scott’s radio address – water rates that went into effect 4-1-12.

Metroplan & Hwys.: Paul Pool reported:

- Steve Mitchell of AHTD made a presentation at the Metroplan TCC March meeting on the SH 5 corridor study. He stated that it appears at this time the study will be recommending full shoulders throughout the route, straightening some curves, and passing lanes. I told him the Village would be pleased with these type improvements and we considered them all to be SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (as opposed to capacity improvements).

Following the presentation, I made this motion which passed, “That all safety-related issues identified in the SH 5 corridor study be addressed during the 2013-16 STIP/TIP cycle.” The motion carried after discussion. The discussion centered around the issue of whether this project would delay other projects listed by name in the proposed 2013-16 STIP. Steve Mitchell assured them it would not because this would be funded from the \$35 million dollar statewide safety fund which does not designate projects.

- On April 4, Tom Bryant and I attended the Metroplan retreat. The Board accepted the above motion without comment. It will now be officially sent to the AHTD for consideration. I discussed the SH5 safety issues with FHWA at the April 4 retreat.
- Tom Bryant will present the Village Economic Impact Study at the retreat on April 5.

Highway Dept. ready to roll out .5% Sales Tax to be voted on in November 12. Projects designated will be funded 100% by this tax if it passes. \$609 million in Highway improvements – all are for adding capacity.

Greater Hot Springs Partnership:

- In Hot Springs, there is a full court press to raise money to start executing the 5 year plan of the overall strategic plan. The goal is for \$3.6M and right now they have committed \$1.8M. In the meantime, there is a hard push to tackle existing current “codes” in the downtown area and particularly in the Bath House Row.
- There is a very heavy effort toward the upcoming election.
- David Byerly and Paul Santiago will be at the next work session, May 2 to give the pitch on Moving Forward.

Hot Springs MPO: Dick Breckon reported:

- The March Hot Springs Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (HSAMPO) meeting passed two resolutions of interest to the Village:
- Resolution No. 2012-01
Item 1 supports widening Highway 7 from the 7/5 junction to Hot Springs, but NOT as an alternative to the 270 bypass.

Item 2 supports the parkway concept for the bypass between the 5/7 junction and 270, thereby reducing costs substantially (still on the order of \$50 million)

Item 3 recommends priority be given to the Hwy 128 interchange when the widening of Hwy 70 begins.

Of course for Items 1 & 2 all that's needed is money. I believe Item 3 has the funding identified.

- Resolution 2012-13 addresses draft bills in the state legislature which would limit MPO's to those representing areas with populations over 100,000. This would essentially give all the power to a small number of the heavy population centers in the state. The resolution recommends that all current MPO's be grand fathered.

- Tom Bryant gave a power point presentation to MPO at Little Rock retreat. Will be invited to come to a future GAC meeting and give update.

Jerry Yeric will get with Bruce Westerman next week on several issues.

Election of Officers: Bob Brandt conducted the election of the officers:

Keith Brown moved to nominate Jim Zahnd to serve as Chair. Jerry Yeric seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dick Breckon moved to nominate Jerry Yeric to serve as Vice Chair. Paul Pool seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9: 30