

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2002, 6:30 P.M., POLICE/FIRE FACILITY

Council President Larry Brawner called the Special Meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bement, Brawner, Centilli, Cross, Martinbianco, Tinnin and Wells.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Smiley; J. Major, DPW Director; R. LaDuke, Assistant DPW Director; R. Hamilton, City Attorney and C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and Possible Action concerning the possible takeover of the County Roads.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Smiley commended Mr. LaDuke on the time he has spent on this project and asked him to make his presentation.

Mr. LaDuke stated that on May 13th of this year, the Council discussed at great length the possibility of taking over the county roads. Tonight, we would like to bring a conclusion to the issue by making a decision whether or not we should proceed. Mr. LaDuke gave a brief history regarding the sanitary sewer takeover in the mid 1970's. He noted that the City is a service agency and is not here to make a profit and at the same time not lose money. He gave an overview of the projected expenses and revenues. Should the City take over the roads, the staff may need to be increased by hiring another laborer and possibly a part-time technician. Mr. LaDuke reviewed the street department costs, indicating that the County will still handle the signal maintenance costs. He discussed the need for additional equipment of two 10-yard dump trucks and one sign truck with a plow and the possibility of purchasing the equipment with Act 51 money. There may also be a need for an additional salt storage area. Mr. LaDuke asked that Council commit to \$40,000 +/- per year, for the next 10 years. He gave a brief overview of several letters in the packet, which were presented to the Council (a copy is available in the Clerk's Office). He referred to the letter (Item #9) to the Department of Transportation dated March 11th, concerning Major Street funding. Mr. LaDuke said he also inquired about the cost of some of the equipment from American Financial Network, which is the company that the Fire Chief has used to purchase fire equipment.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

John Stapish, PO Box 190134, Burton, MI, said this is an ambitious plan but he doesn't think the roads currently under the City's jurisdiction are being properly maintained. He listed several of the streets with existing problems.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martinbianco inquired about the letter to Mr. Turcotte of the Michigan Department of Transportation and reviewed the financial aspect of taking over the county roads. He noted that the reduction in transfer of local streets would also revise the financial projection. Also discussed were the additional equipment costs and the concerns of Mr. Martinbianco regarding the motor pool.

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A brief discussion was held in regards to using Act 51 monies for the purchase of equipment. Mr. LaDuke said he contacted the State concerning this issue and there are provisions in the law that do allow for use of the Act 51 monies. Another issue that was discussed was the striking of the provision in the agreement dealing with snow removal.

Mr. Martinbianco commented that it is difficult to get a voice on the Road and Bridges Committee.

Mrs. Tinnin inquired about the hiring of a technician.

Mr. LaDuke noted that at this time, staff isn't certain about how much work the takeover of the roads will generate. We have listed the hiring of a technician just in case we need additional personnel.

Mr. Major said if a technician were hired, there would be a detailed list of responsibilities.

Mr. Martinbianco asked if the city would have to reimburse the county for the road signs and street/light signals. He was advised no reimbursement would have to be made.

Mr. Cross inquired about getting traffic signals for Lapeer Road from Genesee to Vassar Road. A lengthy discussion was held concerning this issue.

Mr. Major said a contract would be in place with the Genesee County Road Commission for the traffic signals.

Mrs. Tinnin said she would like to see a grade separation.

Mr. LaDuke indicated that a study would be quite expensive with or without the county being involved.

Mr. Major said he is uncertain as to what the funding would be on a grade separation. Discussion continued in regards to the funding.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Centilli moved and Bement seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize adding the following resolution to the Regular Council Meeting of October 7, 2002 at 7:30 P.M.:

Approve and authorize the Agreement Transferring Jurisdiction of Primary Roads to the City of Burton from the Genesee County Road Commission

Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

CML