

STAFFORD HAMLET
COMMUNITY MEETING

Minutes

February 14, 2023

Chair Bill Markt called the February 14th Community meeting of the Stafford Hamlet to order at approximately 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Attendance:

- ❖ Board Members Present: Erica England, Richard Fiala, Patty Mamula, Bill Markt, Cathy Meyers, Danielle Weber,
- ❖ Excused: Bill Long, Andy Munson, Len Schaber, Kelsey Vu
- ❖ Absent:
- ❖ Staff Present:

Bill Markt welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the night's guest speaker Mike Bezner, who is the assistant director of the Department of Transportation and Development at Clackamas County.

Guest Speaker: Mike Bezner - Clackamas County Department of Transportation and Development:

Mike Bezner began by saying he was happy to be at a Stafford Hamlet and that it had been a long time since he had been at one. He said he started at Clackamas County in 1998. Mike said that the County has a lot of transportation projects going on in the Stafford Hamlet area. Mike said that Rick had previously sent him questions.

Mike Bezner said that Jonathan Hangartner has been going a great job of keeping the Hamlet updated on the Stafford Road and Childs Road project. He said that Jonathan's next update to the Hamlet is scheduled for April. This project is the most active project in the Hamlet area. The project is being funded by the community road fund and systems development charges (SDCs).

Mike Bezner said that the County has been concerned about safety on Stafford Road. He said there have been a lot of incremental projects over the year, and he cited the realignment of the Mountain Road and Stafford Road intersection. He said that while the County had applied for a federal grant for work on the shoulders, the County did not get the grant. The work would have been from about Mountain Road to Schatz Road. The County had also wanted to pair a messaging campaign with the shoulder work.

Mike Bezner said the County is doing more work on speed limits. There have been legislative changes that allow for Counties to do their own speed studies. Mike said that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) does good speed studies, but they are slow because of how many they have. Clackamas, Multnomah and one other county are now trying to do their

own speed studies. ODOT has finished the rule making process and now the County is following it. The County must complete a test study to prove to ODOT that they can do speed studies. Mike cautioned that the County will be able to do more speed studies, but they will not be doing tons of them. He added the department will see no increase in staffing. Rick Cook asked if the County would do a speed study on Stafford Road after the road projects are complete, and Mike said probably not. Mike said that the speeds will likely drop because of the new roundabout. Rick Cook asked after the road is reconfigured can you lower the speed limit, and Mike said that is possible. Mike added that a lot of changes to speed limit rules have happened in the past few years. He said that there is a request for a speed zone reduction on Schafer Road.

Mike Bezner said that two new permanent radar feedback signs are going in on Stafford Road. The goal is for them to be in by the end of summer. There will be one for southbound traffic at Mountain Road. The other will be South of Schatz road for northbound traffic.

Mike Bezner said the other project that is in the works in the intersection of Stafford Road, 65th Avenue, and Elligsen Road. The intersection is congested and funky because of the ways the roads intersect. The City of Wilsonville is doing a project in the area that is causing changes. There will be a temporary signal installed there soon. Mike is trying to get a roundabout funded for that intersection.

Mike Bezner said the County is starting an update on their Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) this year. The plan covers twenty years and is updated every ten years. He said it is unlikely there will be dramatic changes. The County has hired a consultant for the update. There will be a large citizen advisory committee for the project and Mike encouraged people to apply when it is created. The committee will help with prioritizing projects.

Mike Bezner said that tolling will have a big impact on both the County and the Hamlet. The draft environmental impact assessment will be released soon. The County will have 45 days to review and comment, and the County will likely request an extension. He added the cities of West Linn and Oregon City are very active in the process. There is some mitigation being proposed. He said in one year the plans for the rest of the tolling (I-5 and rest of I-205) will be released. He said there is a lot to be studied. He added this could have a big impact on the TSP.

Mike Bezner said that the County has started the budget process. The new courthouse construction has started as well. The courthouse is funded by the general fund, not the road fund. He said Transportation has more money now because of the vehicle registration fee. Richard Fiala said the gas tax and vehicle registration fee are required to be used for roads on, and he asked if the diversion money could be diverted to the Courthouse. Mike Bezner said he did not know if that was possible, and said that the County is treating road money as road money.

John McCabe said the estimate for the tolling on the bridges is for 20 to 30 years. He said the congestion pricing could come in later. He asked if the County can challenge ODOT's statement on the missing third lane. Mike Bezner said the 20 to 30 year estimate is what they have said. He said that congestion pricing is scheduled to start one to two years later. He said the thought is that tolling will limit some congestion. He said the County is involved in the regional tolling discussions. John McCabe said he is having issues getting public records from ODOT and asked

about how Clackamas handles records requests. Mike Bezner said the County is usually required to fulfill records requests.

Bill Markt said that the vehicle registration fee (VRF) money is going towards projects that are fixing problems and asked how long the VRF is in place. Mike Bezner said there is no sunset on the VRF. He said the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) could repeal it, but they do not have any interest in that. Mike said that the County is required to share the VRF funds with the cities. The County uses 50% on County roads and 10% on roads that are going to be transferred to a city. The cities get 40% of the funds. The County does projects on local roads, congestion relief, and safety improvements.

Rick Cook asked if the County is working with the City of Lake Oswego on the projects on/near Stafford Road. Mike Bezner said that is not his expertise, and that the County has good relationships with the cities. He said he is meeting next week with the Lake Oswego head of transportation. He said the County gives input when asked, but that the cities are not required to listen. He said each city code is different.

Danielle Weber asked what happened to the white cones on Stafford/Johnson Road. Mike Bezner said it was a learning experience. The County tried them as an inexpensive improvement in a hot stop, but that nearly all were run over or destroyed. The County is focused on hot spots and systematic spots. He said the County is adding more curve signs and bigger signs.

Rick Cook said he knows there have been cutbacks at the County. He added he appreciated Johnathan Hangartner attending Hamlet meetings. He asked what can the Hamlet citizens do to help? Mike Bezner said that inviting the County to meetings is a good step. He said that working with Johnathan is good. He encouraged people to be active and involved. He suggested supporting the TSP as well. He said that people can offer comments to the BCC as well.

Bill Markt thanked Mike Bezner for attending.

Retreat Review:

Bill Markt said that a hybrid meeting is possible. He said Beavercreek did one and that it went well. He said they had some issues with zoom.

Bill Markt said the Hamlet Board has some good projects planned. There are plans to finish mapping, increase agricultural engagement, continue pollinator projects, increase social events, and continue work on the website. The Board is also talking about taking July and August off. This would also help with the planning for the Family Fest.

Bill Markt said there was discussion about getting the Community Vision Plan endorsed.

Bill Markt said the Hamlet Board is going to take turns running the meetings. Kelsey Vu and Patty Mamula have signed up so far.

Adjournment: Chair Bill Markt adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.