

September 21, 1925.

Minutes of the Eighty-second Regular Meeting of the State Highway Commission, held in the State Office Building with the following members present:

Frank V. Lanham, Chairman
Joe Burkett, Member
John H. Bickett, Sr., Member

Washington County's request for 50% aid for topping of Highway No. 36 was deferred, and the County was instructed to get up project agreement and submit same to the Commission at which time the Commission would attempt to grant the request if other obligations were not too heavy.

Order made to instruct the State Bridge Engineer to make soundings for proposed bridge on Highway No. 20, Washington County, between Chapel Hill and Hempstead, in Waller County. The proposition of the county's erecting a toll bridge now and the State's buying the bridge at a later date was discussed and referred to Washington County Commissioners' Court.

On motion of Commissioner Bickett, the Tibbetts Construction Company was awarded contract, amounting to \$592,103.12, for S.A.P. 598-A&B, Highway No. 83 in Jones County. Commissioner Burkett voted "No." Motion passed. The County will transfer their portion of money to finance this project to the State Treasury to the credit of the Highway Department, and the Highway Department agrees to finish the project.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett to designate road from Yoakum, Lavaca County, to Westhoff, DeWitt County, a distance of 18½ miles on the condition that the State be not called upon for any funds prior to October, 1926.

The request of DeWitt County that location "B" be designated by the State on highway from Cuero to Westhoff on the Glacier to Gulf Highway, instead of location "A" which the Federal Government recommended, was referred to State Highway Engineer Hank.

The request of a delegation from Terry County for a change in location of designated highway No. 84 from Brownfield to Plains, from the present location to a location one mile south was postponed.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett that Mr. Will Rancier, Killeen, Texas, relieve Mr. Geo. Cunningham as Chief Clerk and Auditor, effective October 1, 1925. Motion carried.

Order passed cancelling designation of Highway No. 33-A from Wheeler, in Wheeler County, east to the Oklahoma line.

Highway No. 88 was cancelled from a point in the southwest portion of Roberts County to about six miles north of Pampa in Gray County to five miles north of Canadian River to edge of plains.

Order passed changing location of Highway No. 75 from Jericho in Donley County through Groom and Conway in Garson County to Amarillo, (which is now designated to run from Jericho on the south side and parallel to the Rock Island Railroad to a point opposite the town of Washburn in Armstrong County, connecting with Highway No. 5,) to be changed from a point two miles west of the town of Jericho where Highway No. 88 crosses to the north side of the track the proposed location runs approximately two and three-

fourths miles parallel to and on the south side of the Rock Island to a high bridge where it is feasible to construct an underpass by doing a small amount of grading work. From this point the location will follow on the north side and parallel to the Rock Island Railroad through the town of Groom and the town of Conway to within a half mile of the west line of Carson County, thence one-fourth mile north meeting a section line road in Potter County, connecting with State Highway No. 33, six miles east of Amarillo.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett that the following proposal for aid in Wharton County be granted:

"In the matter of the construction of 101 miles of road in Wharton County, Texas, consisting of 38 miles of hardsurfaced road and 63 miles of shell road, the Commissioners Court of Wharton County propose to place to the credit of the State Highway Commission not later than November 1, 1925, the sum of \$900,000.00 upon condition that the Highway Department agree to build during the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 thirty-eight miles of hardsurfaced road to cost approximately \$25,000.00 a miles and known as No. 12 East and West Highway. The Highway Commission assuming the entire cost of all bridging and other necessary improvements to complete the road in the manner stated.

"In addition to this the Highway Department complete 63 miles of road now designated as State Highways and upon which the county has spent approximately \$653,000.00 in grading the same. The Highway Commission to take care of the construction of all necessary bridges upon said 63 miles. In short the proposition of Wharton County being to pay \$900,000.00 as above stated and the state to complete the 101 miles of road in the manner stated."

Order passed authorizing payment to the Hoffman Construction Company of \$150,000.00 on asphalt surfacing work as partial payment on estimates due. Payment to be made on or before October 1, 1925.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett, that contract for Job 67-A, F.A.P. Nos. 424-E, 424-F, 424-G and 436-F on Highway 12-A, Duval County be awarded to W. L. Pearson and Company, subject to the approval of the Attorney General as to the legality of the contract, and with the further condition that Duval County place to the credit of the Highway Department in the State Treasury \$150,000.00. The amount of the contract let is \$945,000.00. Motion carried.

The Commissioners instructed Judge Chester H. Bryan of Harris County to submit to Harris County the proposition of topping 50 miles or more of highway at 18¢, let them bring a check for 10% of what the contract would run, and the Commission will give the contract to Harris County. The Chairman instructed Judge Bryan that the Highway Commission meets on the second and fourth Mondays, and if the proposition is taken up, the check will be cashed, and after proper bond made, the money returned.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett, that contract be awarded to Smith-Boyetette, of Bryan, Texas, for \$59,575.64, on F.A.P. 486-A in Madison County. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett, that Milam County be granted \$17,500 State Aid on overrun on topping. This work is to be done by the contractor who is doing the maintenance work, on a force account, plus 10%. Milam County will carry this account until March 1, 1926, at which time the State will reimburse Milam County.

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The thirteen miles between Zephyr and Brownwood was authorized to be oiled by the Root Refineries Inc., at \$1056 per mile and in accordance with the terms of the contract now held by the Root Refineries Inc. for the oiling of roads in Brown and Mills Counties.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett that \$5000.00 State Aid be granted to Wood County to be used on ten mile strip connecting up State Highways 42 and 15., and that this road be taken over by the State and maintained by the State. Motion carried.

The matter of straightening the road between Canyon and Amarillo in Potter County, as recommended by Division Engineer Larry O. Cox so as to shorten the route by four miles, was presented by Honorable James E. Ferguson, and it was ordered by the Commission that the change as recommended be accepted.

The Commission declined to have conference with Mr. L. W. Kemp, with a vote of two to one against, vote as follows: Commissioners Lanham and Bickett "No", Commissioner Burkett "Yes."

The Commission stated that if Mitchell County would vote bonds to the extent of \$325,000 to be used on the Bankhead Highway from the Nolan County line to Howard County line, the State would grant \$600,000 to assist in paving this last link in Highway No. 1.

Mr. M. B. Hodges was appointed Resident Engineer in Uvalde County of construction work now going on in that county at his present salary.

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Motion by Commissioner Burkett, seconded by Commissioner Bickett, that Joe Gresham be appointed Resident Engineer of Tom Green County at a salary of \$4800 per year, to also act as Division Engineer of District No. 7. This appointment to become effective October 15, 1925.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett that contract for Hall County, F.A.P. 438-E.F.& J. in amount of \$69,291.61 be awarded to the McClung Construction Company. This project is on Highway No. 5.

The Commissioners' Court of Liberty County was instructed to have shell placed on the road between Dayton and Liberty, and on whatever other roads which they considered necessary at this time as temporary surface to be later used as part of permanent improvement; Liberty County to pay the total cost of the improvement at this time, to be reimbursed by the Highway Department later, or to be credited when the permanent hard surfacing work is done.

Motion by Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett that State Aid to the amount of \$15,000 be granted to Freestone County to be used for gravel on Highway No. 7, on a strip 15 miles, and on Highway No. 14, a strip of road about 5 miles long. This work to be done on a force account.

The contract for gravel surfacing of $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Highway No. 68, in Ellis County, extending from Wyatt to the Johnson County line was awarded to the General Construction Company, for \$9,520.00.

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Order passed instructing the State Highway Engineer to prepare plans and advertise for bids for the hard-surfacing of Highway No. 29, from Austin to Port Lavaca, in Victoria County, on condition that Victoria County advance the necessary funds to the Highway Commission until the Spring of 1926, at which time said funds so advanced will be returned to the county.

The proposal of Sabine County to issue warrants to the extent of \$14,000.00 to be used on graveling road on Highway No. 8, for a distance of three miles, was accepted. The Highway Department will reimburse Sabine County on March 1, 1926.

Zavalla County was granted State Aid to the extent of \$35,000.00 to be used on Highway No. 55 from Uvalde County line to La Pryor, a distance of 12 miles. This money will become available after April 1, 1926.

The Commission granted \$65,815.00 _____ Aid on the Orange to Port Arthur road, which will complete same, on the condition that the figures as compiled by the County Engineer are verified by State Highway Engineer Hank. This money to become available sometime in 1926.

Order passed placing G. W. Courter as Resident Engineer on the Dallas-Fort Worth location, effective October 1, 1925.

On motion of Commissioner Bickett, seconded by Commissioner Burkett, Brazoria County was granted fifty-fifty aid, or \$280,000.00, for expenditure on Highway No. 58 from Angleton to Bay City, a distance of 11 3/4 miles, to become available in 1926.