

## MINUTES

The Georgia Highway Contractors Association Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, in the Brown Room, 18<sup>th</sup> floor, at the Commerce Club, 34 Broad Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Those who attended were:

L. Arnie Pittman, III	Ferrell Scruggs
J. Bruce Melton	Clyde Shepherd, III
Michael G. Williams	Robin J. Snell
Bruce Albea	Donald B. Stewart, Jr.
Richard A. Dykes	A. Frank Whitaker
Dan S. Littlefield	Robert B. Ansley, Jr.
Charles E. Matthews	Robert C. Chambers
Cecil L. Pearce	Roger C. Dill
J. Donald Peek	Steven L. Parks
Jeff S. Satterwhite	Joe B. Street

President Arnie Pittman called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He then recognized the guests in attendance. The guests were:

Mark Chesney	Travel Planners International
Kevin Cruikshank	METRAC, Inc.
Bill Hix	Allied North America
James Ridings	Gencor Industries, Inc.

A motion was made and seconded approving the minutes of the October 24, 2006 board meeting.

Treasurer Max Carnes was absent; therefore, Executive Director Steven Parks gave the Treasurer's Report.

President Pittman discussed congress being in session and asked the members if they had heard of any increased funding roadblocks. Federal funding is being provided through a continuing resolution that is providing funding at FY 2006 levels. There is also more talk of the federal trust fund being exhausted. There was also discussion regarding the proposed initiative for increased funding at the state level. At the recent GBT legislative retreat this matter was discussed in some detail, but from the comments from legislators at the retreat we are skeptical about any rapid movement.

Executive Director Parks stated that the application of Sunbelt Structures for a general contractor license had been denied. With the concurrence of Mike Williams, Mr. Parks attended the appeals hearing in Macon along with Allen

Harp of Sunbelt. During the hearing, the licensing board indicated that they are only interested in oversight of vertical, occupiable space. The question was raised regarding such activities as rest areas, welcome centers, and weigh stations. The Board stated that since these activities were under the control of another governmental entity, that a general contractor license would not be necessary. It was also stated that DOT type exempt work would not require license, even if performed on private work. Site work performed under the direction of a general contractor is also exempt. We are expecting clarifying legislation and will try to get more verification from the licensing board in writing.

Executive Director Parks informed the group that the questions about industry capacity continue to be discussed in legislative and DOT circles. He has looked into the issue, but has found no real way to determine exactly what industry capacity is. Specific data indicates that there has been an additional amount of capacity let to contract in an amount of over one billion dollars during the last year. However, in debate over funding initiatives, the issue of capacity should not be on the table at

all. He encouraged everyone to discuss with legislators and DOT Board Members.

Executive Director Parks gave a briefing on the January 18, 2007 DOT Board Meeting. He discussed the recent additions and losses of DOT Board Members. Elected/re-elected to the Board were Billy Langdale, Sam Wellborn, Garland Pinholster, Larry Walker, and Rudy Bowen.

He also reported that DOT staff continue to recommend that DOT purchase additional asphalt plants. This was brought up in one of the presentations at the Board meeting. However, he has visited with both Commissioner Linnenkohl and Deputy Buddy Gratton and they have both advised that they have no plans for more plants.

As a part of that same presentation, the point was made that DOT can produce and lay asphalt cheaper than the private sector. He has asked for data to back up this comment and will meet Thursday, January 25, 2007, with DOT staff in Gainesville to review DOT records.

He informed the group that the initiatives (fuel index, changed conditions clause, dispute resolution) that we are working on with DOT have not been resolved but we are expecting draft copies soon.

A copy of the proposed budget for 2007 was distributed for review. After some clarification regarding a few items, Robin Snell recommended

that the board not vote on the budget until next month's meeting.

Don Peek asked if members could get better communication from GHCA on all these and other matters. Executive Director Parks reported that we are working on bettering the website and our communication with our members.

Executive Director Parks reported on the Convention Committee Meeting held earlier this morning. He discussed that he had confirmed Dick Burleson as a motivational speaker and that he would contact Karen Handel, Secretary of State, to speak at the Ladies Luncheon. Further discussed were possible future convention sites and an increase in registration fees and the reasoning behind a decision to do so.

A recommendation was made on the future sites for the Annual Convention. A motion was made and seconded approving the following site selections:

- 2009 – Westin-Hilton Head, SC
- 2010 – Beau Rivage, MS
- 2011 – Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island, FL

Additionally, a motion was made and seconded approving an increase in registration fees by \$100.00.

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Meeting adjourned.

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Q. William Hammack, Jr., Secretary

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Steven L. Parks, Executive Director

