

MINUTES OF THE 388TH MEETING OF THE OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION

July 14, 1993

Pursuant to the bylaws, the Ohio Turnpike Commission met in regular session in the administration building of the General Motors Lordstown Assembly Plant at 2300 Hallock-Young Road, Lordstown, Ohio, at 10:20 a.m., on July 14, 1993, with key members of the staff; a representative, W. Robson Fleischman, of the consulting engineers, Greiner Engineering, Inc.-Ohio; one member of the media, Mark Niquette, The (Youngstown) Vindicator; and others in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. The roll was called and the attendance was reported to be as follows:

Present: Robert F. Hagan, M. Ben Gaeth, Edwin Bergsmark,
Ruth Ann Leever, Umberto Fedeli

Absent: Jerry Wray

A motion was made by Mrs. Leever, seconded by Mr. Bergsmark, that the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 1993, which had been examined by the Members, be approved without reading.

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Leever, Mr. Bergsmark, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the minutes stood approved with all Members present voting in the affirmative.

The Chairman said there were a number of guests at the meeting and he asked them to identify themselves as follows: Mark Niquette, The (Youngstown) Vindicator; Barb Lesko, the Executive Director's secretary; Heidi Jedel, Information and Research; Eric Carmichael, Pryor, McClendon and Counts; Joe Disantis, Legal Department; Leslie Gaines, Minority Business Enterprise Coordinator; Lou Disantis, Director of Administrative Services; Pat Patton, Government Liaison Officer; Susannah Davis, UE; Dennis Schwallie, Peck, Shaffer and Williams; Dennis Wilcox, Climaco and Seminatore; Gordon Reis, Seasongood and Mayer; Craig Rudolphy, Comptroller; Ron Barnhart, Lordstown Planning and Zoning; Arno Hill, Mayor of the Village of Lordstown; John Holmes, Delco Electronics; Bob Gregg, Hughes Aircraft Company; Rick Schoenian, Delco Electronics; Marc Deflin, Hughes Aircraft Company; Dave Whitman, General Director, Lordstown Fabricating Plant; and Captain Hank Williams, Commander District 10, Ohio

State Highway Patrol. (Cleve Brooks, Brooks Securities, and Dave Millstone, Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, didn't identify themselves.)

The Chairman said the meeting was the 388th of the Ohio Turnpike Commission and it was being held at the administration building of the Lordstown General Motors Assembly Plant. He said Mr. Wray, ODOT Director, was unable to attend the meeting. He said the term of Commission Member Charles Pinzone expired on June 30, 1993, and Governor Voinovich had appointed Carmen Parise to replace him. He said Mr. Parise could not be at the meeting, but the other Members were looking forward to having him as a Member and active participant in future activities. He said that following the meeting, the participants would go to the new 14B (Lordstown East) interchange where the Governor and local officials would be taking part in the ceremony to open the interchange.

The Chairman said that, before going ahead with the meeting, he wanted to say that it was Mr. Bergsmark's birthday and he wanted to wish him a happy birthday.

The Chairman said committee and staff reports would be received. He said the Commission would act on one resolution, a draft copy having been previously sent to the Members and it also was in the Members' folders. He said the resolution would be explained and introduced during the appropriate staff report.

The Chairman said that if there were no questions, the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Bergsmark, would be received.

Mr. Bergsmark said that the following listed items had been sent to the Members since the last regular meeting of the Commission, June 14, 1993:

- (1) Weekly Traffic Statistics
- (2) Investment Transactions which occurred during June 1993
- (3) Draft of the Commission Meeting minutes of June 14, 1993
- (4) News Release #15: Interviews set up with proposed investment banking firms

The Chairman said that the report of the Secretary-Treasurer was accepted as offered. He said the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance would be received.

The Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance, Mr. Bergsmark, said that investment banking proposals were still under review. He said that, in addition, several Commission and staff members would be visiting the bond rating agencies in New York City the day after the Commission meeting to review the Turnpike's finances and procure a rating for a new potential issue that would be coming out in the next couple of months. He

said also that there would be a meeting of the State Controlling Board on August 2 to determine the methodology of the bond sale.

The Chairman said the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance was accepted as offered. He ascertained there would be no report from the Committee on Audit and Legal. He said the report of the Committee on Service Plazas would be received.

The Chairman of the Committee on Service Plazas, Senator Gaeth, said the reconstruction of the service plazas was going along. He said he stopped at one of them the morning of the meeting day and didn't stay very long because it was packed. He said he thought the Commission was making money at the plazas.

Senator Gaeth said also that he would like to comment on Amended Substitute House Bill 154 which affects operation of the Turnpike. He said he had to give some real plaudits to the Commission's Government Liaison Officer, Pat Patton, for meeting with the members of the legislative committee individually so that they were aware of amendments to the Turnpike Act. He said he felt real good that a Senate proposal to require the spending of \$10 million each year on sound barriers was not added to the bill. He said the cessation of the Turnpike Oversight Committee, which was useless and only met two times in about three or four years, was a good idea. He said the original amendment called for ending the committee on July 1, but it was changed by Senator Ted Gray in a conference committee to end on December 31, 1993.

Senator Gaeth said further that another important change was that the word construction was left out of one of the pieces of legislation, and all it had in there was maintaining. He said the word construction was added in conference committee and he thought it gave the Commission greater flexibility and enabled it to function more easily.

Senator Gaeth said further that the Commission's expansion into new projects was a major change. He said the written report that each Member had emphasized in the last paragraph that the amendments were going to make a better Commission out of the existing good Commission.

The Chairman said that the report of the Committee on Service Plazas was accepted as offered. He said the report of the Committee on Employee Relations would be received.

The Vice Chairman of the Committee on Employee Relations, Lou Disantis, said that there was no change in the status of the union/management matters that were pending before SERB since his report at the June meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Disantis said he would like the Commission to know that Blue Cross and Blue Shield had presented its report and renewal figures for the coming year of August 1, 1993 to August 1, 1994,

as provided in its contract. He said a brief summary and analysis of that renewal information by the Commission's consultant, Peat Marwick, had been placed in the Members' folders. He said a complete set of the renewal and reporting information was delivered to the Chairman when it was received.

Mr. Disantis said further that the Committee was happy to report that as a result of the cost containment provisions and preferred provider program approved by the Commission last year, the rate for the coming year will be approximately 8.5 percent higher, including the cost of additional benefits mandated by Ohio House Bill 478. He said the figure compared favorably to the adjustments in prior years which ran well into high double digit increases. He said the Committee was very pleased and it had taken the cooperation of all the employees to attain it.

The Chairman said the Commission had saved over \$2.2 million on insurance in the last year and a half.

Mr. Disantis said the new figures were based on only an eight-month rating period for the first year. He said he hoped that it would even be better when all the schedules were in.

The Chairman said the report of the Committee on Employee Relations was accepted as offered. He ascertained there would be no report from the Committee on Safety. He said the report of the Development Coordinator, Mr. Jim Brennan, would be received.

Mr. Brennan said that on the subject of birthdays, the birthday of the Deputy Executive Director-Chief Engineer, Mr. Alan Plain, would be the Friday after the meeting and Mrs. Leever's would be on Sunday.

The Chairman said the Governor's birthday was the day after the meeting.

Mr. Brennan said that as far as the I-73/I-74 project was concerned, the State of Ohio group had voted to join the umbrella organization which consisted of representatives of five states. He said that with the passage of Substitute House Bill 154 perhaps the Commission would become more involved in the project.

Mr. Brennan said further that the Maumee River Crossing project remained in the environmental impact study stage. He said the study would continue for at least another 18 months. He said that, as he reported before, there was not much the Commission could do until the study had been completed.

Mr. Brennan said the Commission was moving ahead on the new interchange at County Road 24 in Fulton County. He said the Commission was in the process of engaging an engineering consultant.

Mr. Brennan said further that the possibility of using State Route 590 as a substitute for a proposed interchange at State Route 51 was being reviewed. He said the Commissioners in Sandusky County wanted to have an interchange at State Route 590.

Mr. Brennan said further that engineering consultants had been hired to work on the new interchange with State Route 4 in Erie County.

Mr. Brennan said further that the Commission was progressing satisfactorily on the interchange at Baumhart Road in Lorain County. He said the expected completion date was sometime in the Spring of 1995.

Mr. Brennan said further that engineering consultants had been hired for the interchange at State Route 58 in Lorain County.

Mr. Brennan said further that the interchange at State Route 44 was in the same situation. He said engineering consultants had been hired and it was progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. Brennan said further that the Commission would have to work with the Federal Highway Administration and ODOT to come up with a joint access study for the interchange with State Route 77. He said he thought it would be a significant amount of time before an interchange with I-77 could be built.

The Chairman said the report of the Development Coordinator was accepted as offered. He said he had a map in the room showing new or proposed Turnpike interchange sites. He said he wanted to reiterate for the guests at the meeting the Commission's strategic plan to build new interchanges that help with economic development and accessibility. He said the red blocks indicated new interchanges that had been approved within the last three years. He said the green boxes were the new interchanges authorized and the blue boxes were for future interchanges.

The Chairman said further that there were already eleven new interchanges that either had been approved or were under some form of engineering or ready to go in the last three years. He said he also thought there would be another one or two by the end of 1993.

The Chairman said he took his hat off to Allan Johnson and Alan Plain for getting the new Lordstown interchange constructed and opened. He said he was also very proud to say that the Commission and the team they had put together, including its special counsel, bond counsel, Gordon Reis as Financial Advisor, and Jim Brennan as Development Coordinator, were ready to move the Turnpike ahead into the year 2000. He said it was exciting times for the Commission. He said the report of the Executive Director would be received.

The Executive Director, Allan Johnson, said he would like to supplement what Mr. Brennan had already reported on the new interchanges with some further information that he didn't get a chance to talk to him about. He said that on the Fulton County project an RFP had been issued for engineering services. He said responses had been received which had some problems and he expected to have to reissue the RFP. He said it shouldn't cause any serious delays on the project.

The Executive Director said further that an RFP for engineering at the Baumhart Road project was in the final preparation and would be issued shortly. He said that on State Route 58 an engineering firm had been retained. He said the staff was reviewing a question of coexistence with a proposed railroad line at that site. He said that on the Friday before the Commission meeting he and Mr. Plain had attended a meeting at the request of the Governor's representative in Cleveland, Clare Rosacco, concerning coexistence with the railroad. He said the Governor's Development Office was exploring whether there were any opportunities for State and Federal assistance for the railroad that might be applied to a higher construction cost if the railroad was kept in existence. He said the staff was working closely with the Governor's office and with District Three of ODOT on that issue. He said the issue could have some slight delay on proceeding with design plans for the interchange.

The Executive Director said further that, as Mr. Brennan had reported, an access study had to be performed for an interchange with I-77 to comply with the current Federal regulations for adding interchanges onto the Interstate System. He said it was not the Turnpike the FWHA was interested in, but I-77. He said I-77 was an Interstate road under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Transportation and FWHA. He said the access study was required to justify building an interchange. He said it had to be based on traffic projections for a 20-year hence period and the impact on the Interstate road. He said there was a slight chance that the final analysis might determine that no interchange should be built on I-77. He said the staff had to go through that process and would undertake that immediately.

The Chairman said the Commission would disagree with any determination against building an interchange at I-77.

The Executive Director said the Commission surely would oppose that decision. He said it had been on the drawing board since the mid-1960's.

The Executive Director said further that the State Route 4 and State Route 44 plans were well under way.

The Executive Director said further that there was a resolution in the Members' folders he would introduce.

The Chairman asked the Executive Director to delay his report for a minute. He said that he wanted to mention to the guests in attendance that, besides building new Turnpike interchanges, the Commission's strategic plan called for constructing the Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic Corridor from Toledo to Columbus and down to Portsmouth. He said it basically was a Turnpike from the north to the south, which was a very ambitious plan. He said the third project in the plan was the Maumee River Crossing in Toledo, where environmental studies were in progress. He asked Mr. Johnson to go on with the resolution.

The Executive Director said he would like to read the entire resolution which expressed appreciation to Charles R. Pinzone. He said the Chairman had mentioned that Mr. Pinzone, who had been a Member for many years, had his term expire at the end of June. He said he would read the resolution as follows:

"WHEREAS, Charles R. Pinzone was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to serve as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission to fill the unexpired term of O. L. Teagarden for a period from September 2, 1978, through June 30, 1985, and was reappointed by Governor Richard F. Celeste for a second term from July 1, 1985, to June 30, 1993;

"WHEREAS, he served with distinction as a member of the Commission for almost fifteen years and contributed to the Commission through his diligent application to the matters coming before it;

"WHEREAS, during his tenure as a member of the Commission, he served as its secretary/treasurer; as chairman of the Committee on Budget & Finance; as chairman of the Safety Committee and as co-chairman of the Committee on Employee Relations;

"WHEREAS, Charles R. Pinzone has been for many years one of the premier and distinguished labor leaders in the State of Ohio, serving in many capacities, including: Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council; President of the Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council; and Chairman of the Board of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federations of Labor. In addition, Governor James A. Rhodes bestowed upon Mr. Pinzone the Governor's Award for excellence and philanthropic contributions to the citizens of Ohio in 1980;

"WHEREAS, Charles R. Pinzone has resigned as a member of the Commission effective June 30, 1993, and the members of the Commission wish to give formal and public recognition for the long, honorable and exceptionally dedicated and effective service of Charles R. Pinzone, particularly as a member of this Commission;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby acknowledges its gratitude in having the services of Charles R. Pinzone for fifteen years and recognizes and expresses its appreciation of the diligent, active and valuable service rendered by Charles R. Pinzone as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission;

"RESOLVED, that the Commission extends to Charles R. Pinzone its best wishes for his success and well-being in all matters and activities which he shall undertake in the future; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assistant secretary-treasurer be, and hereby he is, directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Pinzone."

The Executive Director said that he heartily recommended that the resolution be adopted. He said he wanted to say that on behalf of the staff and all the employees of the Commission it was a pleasure working with Mr. Pinzone over the fifteen years he served. He said Mr. Pinzone was a supporter and a friend, not only of the activities of the Commission, but of the employees. He said he couldn't say enough in support of him.

A resolution expressing appreciation for Charles R. Pinzone was moved for adoption by Mr. Bergsmark, seconded by Mrs. Leever as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 28-1993

"WHEREAS, Charles R. Pinzone was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to serve as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission to fill the unexpired term of O. L. Teagarden for a period from September 2, 1978, through June 30, 1985, and was reappointed by Governor Richard F. Celeste for a second term from July 1, 1985, to June 30, 1993;

"WHEREAS, he served with distinction as a member of the Commission for almost fifteen years and contributed to the Commission through his diligent application to the matters coming before it;

"WHEREAS, during his tenure as a member of the Commission, he served as its secretary/treasurer; as chairman of the Committee on Budget & Finance; as chairman of the Safety Committee and as co-chairman of the Committee on Employee Relations;

"WHEREAS, Charles R. Pinzone has been for many years one of the premier and distinguished labor leaders in the State of Ohio, serving in many capacities, including: Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council; President of the Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council; and Chairman of the Board of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federations of Labor. In addition, Governor James A. Rhodes

bestowed upon Mr. Pinzone the Governor's Award for excellence and philanthropic contributions to the citizens of Ohio in 1980;

"WHEREAS, Charles R. Pinzone has resigned as a member of the Commission effective June 30, 1993, and the members of the Commission wish to give formal and public recognition for the long, honorable and exceptionally dedicated and effective service of Charles R. Pinzone, particularly as a member of this Commission;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby acknowledges its gratitude in having the services of Charles R. Pinzone for fifteen years and recognizes and expresses its appreciation of the diligent, active and valuable service rendered by Charles R. Pinzone as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission;

"RESOLVED, that the Commission extends to Charles R. Pinzone its best wishes for his success and well-being in all matters and activities which he shall undertake in the future; and

"FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assistant secretary-treasurer be, and hereby he is, directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Pinzone."

A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Bergsmark, Mrs. Leever, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the resolution stood approved with all Members present voting in the affirmative. The resolution was identified as No. 28-1993.

The Chairman said the report of the Executive Director was accepted as offered. He ascertained there would be no report from General Counsel and the consulting engineers.

The Chairman said that the new interchanges at Lordstown and in other parts of the state represented the biggest source of new construction in many, many years. He said the spark plug for all the new activity was the standing Governor, George V. Voinovich. He said the Governor wanted the Turnpike Commission to be a catalyst for change. He said the Commission would not disappoint the Governor.

The Chairman said also that the Governor would be officially opening exit 14B. He said the Governor would be doing it in a

Chevrolet Cavalier made right there at Lordstown. He said that riding with the Governor would be Mr. Ali of UAW Local 1112.

There being no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Bergsmark, seconded by Mrs. Leever that the meeting adjourn until the next meeting on August 9.


A vote by ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Bergsmark, Mrs. Leever, Mr. Fedeli

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. Time of adjournment was 10:42 a.m.

Approved as a correct transcript of the proceedings of the Ohio Turnpike Commission



Allan V. Johnson
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer