

8. Public Comment –

Bronco McKart, Vice President Local #543, informed the Board the union voted on the proposed extension earlier today, and the members passed the 25 cent/hour wage increase and the H S A being front loading. He wanted to clarify some things. As a union we understood that the H S A was to be front loaded the first of the year regardless of the offers. He stated he knows everybody on the Board and he has tried to keep everything professional, but he is frustrated. The last contract negotiations, prior to this Board, were long and the union felt the insurance options were held over their head as a hammer during negotiations. He indicated relationships have been negatively affected. This Board has encouraged a good relationship between everybody – management, workers and board. The union didn't realize the H S A being uploaded was part of the offer and he would have hoped it would have been presented differently.

Mr. McKart stated the union has agreed to a 1 year extension as offered.

9. The following items were listed on the Consent Agenda: *(with immediate effect)*

Commissioner Minton asked to have item #5 pulled for further discussion.

1) Approval of Minutes - December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 806 Vendor Checks #67446-67507	\$ 855,110.38
No. 822 Payroll Checks #62886-62897 & Advice #17974-18058	\$ 223,016.96
No. 836 Vendor Checks #67508-67571	\$ 438,028.42
No. 849 Vendor Checks #67572-67604	\$ 54,446.62
No. 852 Payroll Checks #62898-62907 & Advice #18059-18143	\$ 231,749.66

3) Township Contracts –

Dundee Township
2016 Excess Gradall – Local Roads

4) Approve Municipal Resolution for Monroe Bank & Trust.

Commissioner Stammer moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve items #1-4 on the January 11, 2016 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5) Approve the extension of the existing contract with KBK Landscaping for primary roadside mowing for the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

Commissioner Minton asked if KBK self-perform all the work or utilize contractors. Mr. Pierce explained the Road Commission contracted with KBK and he believes they did the work. The Road Commission did do some minor touch up as the company was not familiar with our maps and this was their first year.

Commissioner Minton asked if there were some performance issues with their work that was paid for as part of the contract. Should the contract be extended there would be no excuse for the Road Commission to go back and do any type of clean up.

Mr. Pierce stated that would be correct. He also stated the Supervisor overseeing the work had the company come back and do some clean up.

Commissioner Minton if this service would go out for bid when would that need to be advertised. Mr. Pierce stated end of February, beginning of March. KBK was awarded the contract for primary roads and the prior contract had a provision to extend for up to 2 years.

Commissioner Minton stated he had concerns about extending the contract for 2 years after experiencing issues with the contractor, but he wasn't opposed to a 1-year extension. Mr. Pierce indicated a 1-year extension could be done.

Commissioner Londo asked if the original proposal contained the option to extend for 1 year or 2 years. Mr. Pierce stated the original bid allowed for up to a 2 year extension as mutually agreed.

Commissioner Pace stated he agreed to this last year on two conditions: 1) no loss of Road Commission jobs and 2) there would be a cost savings. He inquired about the cost savings. Mr. Pierce stated the Road Commission saved approximately \$200,000 and it freed up the time for our employees to perform other work, such as pulling berms, durapatcher work, cold patching, etc.

Commissioner Iacoangeli voiced a concern that should we continue with a 1-year extension and review it next year could the costs escalate. He wondered if it would be better to lock in prices for the next 2 years.

Commissioner Londo asked if the extension locked in the price for 2 years. Mr. Masserant pointed out the letter from KBK stated it would lock in the current rate for 2 years. Mr. Pierce felt the clause as mutually agreed means the contractor could adjust the price.

Commissioner Pace asked for Mr. Pierce's recommendation. Mr. Pierce would go with the 1-year extension and review or rebid after that.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to award a 1-year extension to KBK Landscaping for mowing for 2016. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried

10. Unfinished Business -

Commissioner Pace indicated he must have missed a meeting when the GPS was discussed. He inquired about the costs of the GPS stating the past he felt the money could be better spent on roads or equipment. In the past, there were problems with getting the system to do what the Road Commission wanted. He asked if it was worth continuing to use the GPS.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the GPS was discussed during the workshop. The cost for the GPS was in the budget in the amount of \$50,000 but not all of that allotment has been spent. There is an entirely new system and the work is ongoing.

Commissioner Pace asked why use the GPS if there is no cost savings. Commissioner Iacoangeli stated during the discussions in the workshop, the GPS has to do with public safety and public awareness and perception.

Commissioner Londo added it also was to increase efficiency. Commissioner Iacoangeli stated there are definitely multiple advantages to have the GPS system in our vehicles.

Commissioner Pace stated the GPS is ok, but our roads are not where they should be and there aren't enough guys to cover our roads as quick as we should. He would rather see the \$50,000 spent towards hiring more people.

Mr. Pierce explained the initial cost was \$9,800 to install the units and approximately \$700/month in fees. Mr. Masserant added the installation is a one-time capital purchase.

Commissioner Pace agreed it isn't a great deal of money, but that money could be put on chip sealing a road. He would rather see the money used for more people and/or trucks.

11. New Business – None.

12. Report of Officers –

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce thanked Local #543 for the good job they did with the recent snow event. The Road Commission is anticipating another snow event and felt the workers were ready.

Mr. Pierce also indicated Mr. Masserant put together a chart of salt usage which he hoped the Board would find informative and helpful.

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant explained the salt usage chart analysis going back to 2000. He pointed out that every season is different and felt this would be a good time frame for comparison. We have had a mild winter until last week and the biggest month is usually January. So far we are under budget with only using about 1300 tons of salt.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Nothing additional to report at this time.

13. Public Comment -

Vince Burkey, South Monroe Townsite resident, voiced a concern for many residents in his subdivision that the roads are very icy. He stated subdivisions don't see trucks for about 3 days after a snow event and by then the snow has packed down and turned into ice and the blades can't cut through the ice because it is solid. He would like to request at least one truck be designated into subdivisions to at least hit the intersections until you have more time. He knows the Road Commission is busy but one truck to salt these intersections would be a huge benefit.

Jim Morgan, Local #543, asked for a clarification on the mowing contract. If the Road Commission was doing spot clean up, was there still a \$200,000 savings. Mr. Morgan asked if the Road Commission was cleaning up primary roads. Mr. Pierce explained the Road Commission did minor clean-up and KBK was called back to do other clean up. Using a contractor to mow has allowed the Road Commission to perform back bank clean-up and other jobs that hasn't been done in years due to lack of manpower.

Mr. Morgan reminded everyone there is a cost to the clean-up which may affect the perception associated with the savings.

14. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace has nothing additional.

Commissioner Stammer urged the workers to stay safe while working with the snow and ice. He also indicated he thought the roads looked good over the weekend.

Commissioner Londo indicated Senate Bill 571 was fast tracked. The Board and Road Commission received an email and then another email a few days later that indicated the Governor had already signed the bill. That didn't leave any time for any response or follow up.

Commissioner Londo wondered if anyone could communicate with CRA about providing more advanced notice to allow time to voice concerns. He fails to understand the logic behind cutting off questions and answers to obtain information on a topic 60 days prior to an election.

Commissioner Minton agreed with Commissioner Londo. He felt it was a poor bill that was signed by the Governor. They have also done some clean up to the bill – it is very bad. He also inquired about the salt facility and the follow up with MB&T property. Mr. Pierce explained that he has talked with MB&T about the property on Newport Road, which he felt would allow an easier in and out for our trucks, and thought the property might be cheaper. MB&T explained that the property would need to go before Ash Township to approve any type of 3-way property split and it would be marketed at a premium cost due to the location. He decided to stay with the property in Berlin Charter Township and move forward to finalize that purchase.

Commissioner Minton indicated he didn't want to veer off track. Commissioner Pace has mentioned having a salt facility in the north portion of the county would be a huge benefit to the Road Commission and he wanted to make sure we have it in place for next season.

Commissioner Iacoangeli thanked the other Board members for their confidence in his leadership. He thanked everyone for coming.

15. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk