

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
January 26, 2015**

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners at their offices located at 840 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, Michigan on Monday, January 26, 2015 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.

Board members present: Bruce R. Stammer, Jr., Stephen Pace, Dan Minton, Paul Iacoangeli and Charles Londo.

Chairman Iacoangeli led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened with prayer.

2. Additions/Deletions to the Consent Agenda - None.
3. Additions/Deletions to the Regular Meeting Agenda - None.
4. Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the January 26, 2015 regular meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment - None.

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

- 1) Approval of Minutes- January 12, 2015 Regular Minutes
- 2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 18 Payroll Checks #62552-62565 & Advice #15882-15965	\$ 276,868.18
Cafeteria Plan 4th Qtr pmts Checks #62537-62551	\$ 12,595.05
Bank Service Charge - December 2014	\$ 130.65
No. 19 Vendor Checks #65761-65788	\$ 194,362.66
No. 33 Vendor Checks #65789-65844	\$ 514,676.94
Void - Check #65492	\$ 3,815.00

- 3) Approve the revised Municipal Resolution for Monroe Bank & Trust.
- 4) Award bid for Newburg Road [Burns to Maxwell] drainage improvements in Ash Township, to low bidder Salenbien Excavating in the amount of \$125,000 upon the approval of Ash Township, Managing Director Randy Pierce and County Highway Engineer Scott F. Assenmacher; and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.
- 5) Township Contract  
Bedford Township  
Secor Road                      Temperance Road to St. Anthony                      Advance Construct

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the January 26, 2015 Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

7. Unfinished Business -

- 1) RFP's for Legal Services.

Commissioner Pace indicated that the previous board voted 3 -2 to send out RFP's for legal services. He felt that Mr. Costello has done a good job and should be retained. It would be his recommendation to keep the existing legal counsel that is under contract through September 2015. He also indicated those who applied should be contacted and thanked for their interest in applying.

Commissioner Londo didn't disagree. He added that upon review it appeared that two (2) of the four submittals were complying bids and he would suggested that the two complying firms be interviewed between now and September to evaluate the Board's options.

Commissioner Stammer added that it was questioned whether the Board had the authority to terminate the legal counsel's contract. Commissioner Stammer that Mr. Costello's contract reads he can be terminated in accordance with Michigan law. He cited Michigan law, MRPC 1.16, outlining that the Road Board indeed has the ability to discharge legal counsel should they desire. The current agreement does not indicate a fixed amount, only a \$2,000 monthly retainer therefore the client can discharge legal counsel at any time with no further obligation.

Commissioner Londo moved, supported by Commissioner Pace to retain Phillip Costello as MCRC Legal Counsel through his current 9/2015 contract; and schedule a date in the future to interview the two (2) applicants with complying bids.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

How the interviews will be conducted will be determined at a future meeting.

## 2) Mowing bids.

Mr. Pierce explained that the previous Board directed the staff to prepare bids specs for their review. The Board directed that the current Mowing Policy and bids specs be consistent so changes were made and the Board approved a revised Mowing Policy. No further action was taken on whether the Board wanted the bids to be sent out and Mr. Pierce was looking for direction on the current Board's intent.

Commissioner Stammer indicated Washtenaw County bid out one district and realized a savings then decided to bid out the entire county. Buying equipment is a big investment and the Road Commission's equipment is old.

Commissioner Minton asked if this resulted in the loss of jobs in Washtenaw.

Commissioner Stammer didn't know but felt there was plenty of work in Monroe County and the crews could focus on doing things that need to be done.

Commissioner Londo moved, supported by Commissioner Stammer to authorize the Managing Director to go out for competitive bids for roadside mowing and back bank mowing for the summer season.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

## 3) Subdivision snow plowing bids.

Commissioner Stammer indicated that the Board directed the staff to put a bid out for subdivision snow removal to test the waters to see who might be interested and the cost. The bids were way too expensive.

Commissioner Pace added it isn't that the Road Commission isn't capable of doing the work, but it takes time to get to the subdivisions and people are not understanding of the time and work involved.

Commissioner Pace explained that Bedford Township has the largest amount of subdivisions, and getting them cleared within 3 days is appropriate time frame based on the large number of subdivisions. If the Road Commission allowed contracted subdivision removal, the cost should be paid for by the township, not the Road Commission. He felt it was too late in the season and this option should be looked at for next year.

Commissioner Minton asked if the Board needed a motion to approve or not approve. Mr. Costello indicated it required no action if they weren't acting on the bids.

Commissioner Iacoangeli stated he felt getting ideas of costs associated with subdivision plowing was a good start, but the bids received seemed to be cost prohibitive at this time. He suggested that this type of service be re-investigated for action before the next winter season.

4) MCRC purchasing through MI Deal.

Commissioner Stammer explained that the previous board had questions on using the MI deal program for equipment purchases. In the past the Road Commission couldn't go back and utilize the MI Deal program if they went out for bid. He contacted them to learn there are no restrictions anymore, except for salt. The Road Commission has the option to shop around or use the MI deal bids. He acknowledged that using the MI deal bids saves the Road Commission time and money by not having to write up bid specs and/or advertise.

Commissioner Londo asked why this was before the Board. Commissioner Pace explained the previous board wanted to use local dealers. He stated that all local dealers have the same option to participate in the MI Deal program. He agreed it would make sense to stay local if they are cheaper, but it usually not the case.

Mr. Pierce explained that the Road Commission has utilized the MI Deal program in the past, but has also gone out for bids – it is usually at the direction of the Board. In using the MI Deal program, they use all Michigan vendors and the state puts out generic bids specs. He is willing to put together bids specs should the Board direct, but that usually takes 6-8 hours of time to prepare. The Road Commission also had piggybacked on the Oakland County bid since they benefited from a bigger discount with larger fleet dealers. The MI Deal gives the Road Commission buying power without the extra work and keeps money in Michigan. Most of the local vendors are not fleet dealers and the last bids came in about \$4,000 more than the MI Deal bids. The MCRC belongs to MI Deal.

Commissioner Iacoangeli agreed that the MI Deal allows anyone to bid and therefore does not shut out local dealers.

Commissioner Londo asked if there was a problem using MI Deal and local vendors when applicable. Mr. Pierce indicated no.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the staff had the authority to use the MI Deal program or get prices from local vendors as they see fit.

8. New Business -

1) Imposing time limits for Public Comment.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he would like to see changes made to the MCRC Rules of Order. He suggested they take a look at the Rules of Order and send their suggestions to Cheryl for discussion at the last meeting in February for possible modification.

- 2) MCRC Board Representative in Bedford Township once a month in conjunction with Drain Commissioner hours.

Commissioner Stammer explained that 2 years ago Road Commissioner Jeff Zink asked the Board to allow him to share time with the Drain Commissioner at the Bedford Township Hall once a month. The Board had no problem with his doing this. He stated he was a Bedford resident and would be willing to continue this service.

Commissioner Iacoangeli clarified that the Road Commission representative would be present to listen to resident's concerns and bring them back to the Board and/or staff for follow up and that the representative would not have the authority to make any type of decision. Everyone indicated that was a correct.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated if Commissioner Stammer was willing to volunteer his time he thought it would be acceptable.

- 3) Appoint MCRC Board Member to the MCRC Retiree Health Care Benefits Plan & Trust (VEBA) Board.

Commissioner Iacoangeli stated that Dan Minton and Charles Londo both voiced interest in the VEBA Board.

Commissioner Pace moved seconded by Commissioner Iacoangeli to appoint Dan Minton to the VEBA Trust Board.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried.

Commissioner Londo asked if there were any objections to his being an alternate.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated that was a good idea.

Commissioner Iacoangeli moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton, to appoint Charles Londo as the VEBA Trust Board alternate.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried.

- 4) Approve the budget adjustment expenditure of \$45,553.25 for MCRC land line VoIP Phone system upgrade in conjunction with County of Monroe phone upgrade with Altura Communications Solutions per the recommendation of the Director of Finance, Phillip C. Masserant.

Mr. Masserant explained that the MCRC works in concert with the County of Monroe for savings in the phone system. The current system is over 15 years old and the county is upgrading the system.

Mr. Assenmacher explained that this has been in process for a few years. The Technology Work Group has researched a variety of systems and it makes sense to piggyback with the County for the cost savings.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace, to approve the budget expenditure of \$45,553.25 for the land line VoIP phone system upgrade as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried.

5) Approve the Design Service Agreements and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board as follows:

Mannik & Smith Group - N. Dixie Hwy @ Bancroft & Knowles Drain culvert  
(Village of S. Rockwood)  
- S. Stoney Creek Road Safety Project (Exeter Township)  
Wade Trim - Smith Road @ Lewis signalization (Bedford Township)

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the design service agreements with Mannik & Smith and Wade Trim as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried.

6) Participation in the 2015 Bedford Trade Fair.

Commissioner Stammer indicated the Road Commission has participated the last 2 years in the Bedford Trade Fair and the Monroe County, and he felt it has helped to improve relations with citizens. The Bedford Trade Fair is March 14-15, 2015 and the cost is \$485.00. He felt participating in these type of PR events has helped to reduce the number of complaints and increase positive comments. He indicated that he spoke with the BBA and they are holding a booth for the Road Commission.

Commissioner Minton indicated he has also participated with the Bedford Trade Fair with other organizations and felt there is a huge amount of traffic that creates good opportunity to educate the residents on what the Road Commission and how we are run. With the ballot proposal coming in May this would be a good chance to provide additional information to the public.

Commissioner Minton moved, supported by Commissioner Stammer, to authorize the participation in the 2015 Bedford Trade Fair and approve the expenditure of \$485 for the booth.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried.

9. Report of Officers –

*Philip Costello* (General Counsel) – Nothing additional to report.

*Scott Assenmacher* (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher gave an update on the rural set aside road program which would require some balancing and reallocating of funds for 2016.

Mr. Assenmacher stated he is working with Mr. Masserant and Mr. Smith on the presentation for the Board at the next regular meeting. He is also continuing to work with Mr. Costello on township truck ordinances in the goal of developing a unified truck network for the county.

*Michael L. Smith* (Director of Operations) – Mr. Smith explained the maintenance department is working on estimates for the 2015 projects. He also provided a report on the anti-icing pilot program. The maintenance department will continue to monitor this program but is seeing mixed results depending on the weather conditions.

*Phillip C. Masserant* (Director of Finance) - Mr. Masserant indicated his department is working to wrap up the 2014 fiscal year audit and felt it went smooth. He hoped to have a report within the next 3-4 weeks. Once completed the ACT 51 state report would be submitted.

*Randy Pierce* (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) - Mr. Pierce provided pictures of the new trucks to the Board and indicated all five have been received and are on the road. He stated 11 of the 18 tandems employed with the MCRC have been upgraded/replaced in the last three years. The newer trucks are incorporating new technology with double wings, single wings, and slide in sanders (V-Box) so if there are problems with the sander the box can be pulled and the truck is still operational.

Mr. Pierce also indicated he is still in negotiations with Berlin Charter Township on property in the north end of the county for a potential satellite salt barn.

10. Extended Public Comment -

Larry Bross appeared before the Board with regard to the drainage concerns on Kay Dr. Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if the parties could stay after the meeting and speak with the staff on the progress of this issue.

David Hoffman, County Commissioner, congratulated the new board members on their appointment and indicated he felt it was a good meeting.

Dan Vandeveld, MCRC Retiree, voiced a concern regarding a letter he received outlining the change in his benefits and he has a letter stating his benefits would not change after his retirement. Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if Mr. Vandeveld could stay and talk with Mr. Pierce after the meeting.

11. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Londo* stated he was curious on procedures on the policy review and possible changes. He also asked if the staff could provide him with a comparison of dollars spent on last years' winter maintenance vs. money spent so far in 2015. He would like to know how much the Road Commission has saved with the calmer winter season.

*Commissioner Pace* had nothing additional to report.

*Commissioner Stammer* appreciated the Board's support to participate in the Bedford Trade Fair.

*Commissioner Minton* said he finds himself looking at roads everywhere he goes. For the most part he is proud of the good job the employees are doing. He received calls from residents saying Road Commission did great job on M50 compared to years past. He urged the workers to be safe out there.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* thought it would be a good idea to put the board packet on the Road Commission website instead of just the agenda. If the other board members had no objection he felt it would give the public a better idea option and would help with transparency.

Commissioner Londo asked if there was a better format available. Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated most people can open a pdf file.

Commissioner Iacoangeli thanked the board members for helping to bring the newer commissioners up to speed on old business matters.

12. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Cheryl A. U'Ran*

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Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk