

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
February 9, 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, February 9, 2015 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

2. Additions/Deletions to the Consent Agenda -

Add: #7[3] Township Contracts
Ash Township Newburg Road drainage improvements

3. Additions/Deletions to the Regular Meeting Agenda -

Add: #9[1] Approve extending the existing contract with Michigan Chloride Sales LLC for mineral well brine for one additional year until April 4, 2016.

4. Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the February 9, 2015 regular meeting agenda as amended. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

5. MCRC Presentation

Scott F. Assenmacher, County Highway Engineer, opened by explaining the presentation is a collaborative effort between Phil Masserant, Mike Smith and himself. The power point slide show was put together at the direction of the Board and Mr. Pierce to provide a brief snapshot of what the Road Commission does, where we have been and where we are going. He also apologized for the change in the seating arrangement to accommodate the presentation.

Mr. Assenmacher encouraged the Board to stop and ask questions anytime during the presentation. Slides included the MCRC organization chart, workforce level trend history, chart of the MCRC infrastructure which includes bridges, culverts, traffic signals, flashing signals, railroad crossings, roadway sign support and roadway signs. Mr. Assenmacher explained the importance of understanding centerline miles verses lane miles. A slide showing bridge asset comparison to other similar counties was incorporated.

Commissioner Pace asked if deficient means closed, and how many roads are actually closed due to these deficient crossings. Mr. Assenmacher stated there is functionally obsolete which doesn't meet criteria by the book, and structurally deficient means there is an issue that needs to be addressed and as the deficiency level goes down, roads are now looked at for possible posting or closing of that structure. When a crossing is closed for about 5 years, they come off the list as an asset. Monroe County has lost several crossings from the list over the years.

Mr. Assenmacher explained Monroe County is ranked 8 and is unique with the numerous tributaries and drain crossings, yet we get no additional funds for these structures. A lot of talk is done on roads, but we often forget about the number of deficient bridge/culvert crossings and these crossings can be as costly if not more costly than road treatments.

Mr. Masserant explained the 10-year historical data outlining the MCRC revenues displayed the various sources of funding available to the Road Commission, a pie chart displaying the 2014 MCRC expenditures, a pie chart showing the different activities performed by the Road Commission and a chart of the equipment/capital outlay.

Mr. Masserant explained the Road Commission was able to obtain a Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) \$1 million grant that allowed the MCRC to purchase five (5) new tandem axle trucks to replace older trucks with high emissions. The MCRC match for that grant was \$200,000. Mr. Smith stated the CMAQ grant funds are usually for intersection widening or traffic signals so this was a very innovative way to get funding to purchase new trucks. Mr. Masserant indicated the Road Commission will try to get another CMAQ grant in 2016 for single axle trucks.

Mr. Smith continued the presentation with an explanation of historical surface treatments that includes chips seal, overband crack fill, micro surfacing, asphalt paving project and a variety of other treatments, and 2014 projects map. It looks like a great deal of work but it actually only represents less than 10% of the Monroe County network of paved roads.

Mr. Smith explained that the project map put together by the Engineering Department is updated on the website as projects progress during the construction season.

As part of the first round of Roads & Risk Reserve (RRR) fund appropriations, the MCRC received \$5 million toward the rehabilitation of Samaria Road. Mr. Assenmacher recapped the history of what was known as M-151 built as a concrete road. Over the years the joints blew out and the road became pothole ridden that became expensive for the Road Commission to maintain, with no funding or solution available. Working with Asphalt Materials and the Heritage Research Group, the Road Commission was able to produce a plan for the badly deteriorating road. The plan included full depth reclamation with asphalt emulsion that would be completed in four (4) stages. This was a successful project that will be featured in Road and Bridge magazine and applications have been submitted for awards at the national level.

Commissioner Londo asked about the warranties and life expectancy for this new treatment. Mr. Assenmacher said there were no warranties except the maintenance bond and it is expected to have a 25 year life span with the proper preventive maintenance. He added that road will benefit from the base stabilization and good drainage. The crushed concrete removed from the site was taken to the Dundee yard and crushed into 21A size stone and is being used on other projects, like Tuttle Hill Road and on gravel roads, shoulders and intersections.

Mr. Smith described how the Road Commission will be working with the townships to develop their wish lists. The Road Commission will be utilizing a project planning tool to help guide the decision making process. It includes several maps that outline the current road conditions, priority route roads based on township preference, and roads showing ADT (average daily traffic counts). The Road Commission looks at how to preserve a good asset with minimal dollars to extend the life of these roads. The Road Commission provides estimates for the townships and we work with them to find roads that fall within their budgets. He explained that the townships appear to be in line with what they have spent within the last three years. He added that a chip seal treatments adds about 3-5 years of life to a road. The Road Commission could do more treatments with additional funding.

The MTF revenues average about a 0.75% over the last 15 years. The CPI is increasing an average of 2.7% and the Highway Construction Cost Index shows an increase of an average 6% a year. Every year the MTF revenues are not sufficient to cover the ever rising costs to reconstruct highways and roadways. Mr. Masserant talked about the ballot proposal that if approved will be phased in over three year period. The MCRC would see about \$7.2 million increase in funding should the ballot proposal pass. There needs to be support to educate the public on this ballot proposal.

Commissioner Minton agreed that support is needed for the ballot initiative. He asked if materials could be made available for distribution to the public at the Bedford Trade Fair. Mr. Assenmacher indicated that CRAM was in the process of putting together material to assist local road commissioner with information to get out to the public.

Commissioner Minton indicated that Commissioner Stammer had volunteered to man the Bedford Trade Fair booth, but wondered if having some Road Commission staff there with more information and intelligence on the subject might be more beneficial.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated that won't help those who will be voting be absentee ballot. He felt there wasn't much information out there for the absentee voters. He commended the staff for the presentation.

Commissioner Pace suggested the Chair and Vice Chair attend a County Commissioners meeting to solicit their support in getting the information to the public. He suggested the topic of Self Help should be discussed with the County also.

Commissioner Iacoangeli thanked the staff for their time and effort spent on the presentation.

6. Public Comment –

Phil Heath, Milan Township Supervisor, stated the Road Commission did a good job with the snow event. He voiced a concern that the residents of Milan Township are not pleased with the condition and work done on Wabash Road. He has received numerous calls that the road is a mess and people are complaining about chipped windshields. He explained that the township paid \$60,000 for a chip seal with a 7 year life a few years before the state selected this road to received RRR monies. The township now feels they wasted the \$60,000 they invested and the road is in worse condition that before.

Chairman Iacoangeli asked Mr. Heath if he would stay after the meeting to receive an update from the state of the work to be completed on Wabash Road.

David Hoffman, County Commissioner – Dundee, stated the presentation was outstanding. He felt the presentation should be given to the County Board and thought the current county board was a good group to start discussions on the Self-Help program. He stated money was started to return to Monroe County so it was time to address the Self-Help program. He stated her personally was on board with implementing the Self-Help program.

Mr. Hoffman also commended the use of the side blades on the new trucks. He felt they were doing a good job keeping the shoulders cleared back and the water off the roads.

Mike Sperling, Raisinville Township, stated Mr. Pierce was doing a good job for the Road Commission. He added Mr. Pierce always calls him back and tells him like it is. He agreed with the concept of cutting the shoulders down to keep the water off the surface. He also asked if any Road Commission employees were driving trucks home. For the record he wanted to state he is against any employee taking a truck home. He also said he was for random drug testing.

Vern Guindon, Dundee, asked if the use of recycled millings on Samaria Road was the first for the county. Scott F. Assenmacher explained base stabilization type projects have been done for years.

Mr. Guidon also asked if he could schedule a meeting with Mr. Pierce to discuss a little drainage issue that has popped up at the Dundee site.

Chairman Iacoangeli indicated he could schedule a date and time with Mr. Pierce that was convenient for them.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- January 26, 2015 Regular Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 42 Payroll Checks #62567-62578 & Advice #15966-16047	\$
248,198.19	
Void Check #15891/C. Londo	\$ 256.09
Reissue replacement Check #62566/C. Londo	\$ 256.09
No. 47 Vendor Checks #65845-65861	\$ 614,000.85
No. 62 Vendor Checks #65862-65894	\$ 67,410.64
Bank Service Charge - January 2015	\$ 87.00

3) Township Contract -

Ash Township

Newburg Road

Burns Rd to Maxwell Rd

Drainage Improvements

4) Approved and sign the Dedicated Highway and Utility Easement for Eugene T. Sisinyak for permanent easement for additional Right-Of-Way along Nadeau Road in conjunction with the North Monroe Street (M-125) and War Road improvement, Frenchtown Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

5) Approve the contract with Hennessey Engineers, Inc. for all needed construction, engineering, testing, inspection and construction staking for the Newburg Road drainage improvement project, Ash Township, Monroe County, Michigan; and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the February 9, 2015 Consent Agenda as amended. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business – None.

9. New Business -

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve extending the existing contract with Michigan Chloride Sales LLC for mineral well brine for one additional year until April 4, 2016. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

10. Report of Officers -

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello indicated he has been reviewing the current MCRC Purchasing Policy and will be working with the staff on updating that policy, which will be brought before the board for approval when ready.

Mr. Costello also explained that he sent a letter to the homeowner on Kay Drive asking that his private drain be disconnected from the Road Commission drain. The homeowner has 30 days to comply.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher explained the next Federal Aid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the MCRC. The Board members are welcome to attend.

Michael L. Smith (Director of Operations) – Mr. Smith thanked the maintenance department for a good job on the snow event. They put in a lot of hours and the gratitude from the public is well deserved. He also gave credit to Randy Pierce and cited him for the quick response to get the extra loaders in early which helped make a huge difference in how fast the roads were opened up.

Mr. Smith also mentioned he would be scheduling a workshop mid-March to view Preventative Maintenance Systems and see the different options available for road surface treatments. This would be a 1-2 hour workshop where the townships and board members would be invited to attend.

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant indicated that Commissioner Londo asked for winter maintenance costs comparison the last meeting and he provided that information to them. The costs are down 42% overall. Labor costs are down 56% and materials are up 10% due to the increase in salt prices.

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce thanked the staff for the presentation. He also thanked all the road workers for the great job during the last snow event saying they worked as a team and he was very proud of them. He also suggested the possibility of a board workshop on how to handle information on the upcoming ballot proposal that would affect road funding.

11. Extended Public Comment -

Mike Sperling, Raisinville Township, wanted to make sure the Board didn't get the wrong impression that he wasn't making any assumptions about employees using drugs, but he knows DTE has a Wellness Plan that rewards employees for healthy habits which helps in keeping health costs down. He also mentioned the Road Commission needed to keep an eye on the millings as some of the rocks aren't being crushed and are coming out on the larger side.

Todd Allen, Local #543, thanked Mr. Pierce and Mr. Smith for the good feedback from the recent snowstorm. He said it was exciting to hear positive comments from the public.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Londo apologized for jokingly making the comment at the last meeting about the lack of snow, then we got dumped on. He grew up in the Upper Peninsula so this is normal, but people in the lower portions seem more anxious when it snows. He stated it was nice to read the positive comments from the County Board on the good job done by the Road Commission. He also indicated the positive comments he hears on the street is exciting.

Commissioner Londo thanked Mr. Masserant for providing him with the comparison report for snow.

Commissioner Pace thanked the staff for the informative presentation. He stated he felt a workshop was a good idea as it is a good way to discuss things and not waste board meeting time. He suggested the information from the presentation be sent to the local newspaper as an education piece to help public understand how the Road Commission operates.

Commissioner Pace also commended the crews on the good job during the last snow storm. He also explained that the Road Commission performs random drug testing on a regular basis for all employees.

Commissioner Stammer – excused.

Commissioner Minton also thanked the staff the informative presentation. He commended the staff saying whenever he calls they are right on it. To his brothers and sisters working in the field, he applauded them for a job well done. He stressed the importance of staying safe while working in these unfavorable elements and praised them for their willingness to go the extra mile when they weren't being attacked. He said keep up the good work.

Commissioner Iacoangeli echoed the same sentiments. The presentation was well done and very informative. He thanked the employees for all the work and the good job as evidenced by the positive news editorial recognizing the efforts of the road crews. He said people are always quick to complain, but slow to give you a pat on the back. Good to see the effort being made to compliment the work being done.

He indicated a tremendous effort is needed to get the information out to the public on the ballot initiative.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk