

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
February 13, 2017**

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 13, 2017 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>
Dan Minton	Greg W. Stewart
Stephen J. Pace	
Charles A. Londo	
Paul Iacoangeli	

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

3. Commissioner Iacoangeli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Commissioner Iacoangeli led the Silent Opening Prayer.

5. Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the February 13, 2017 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1
Motion carried.

6. Public Comment - None.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- January 23, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 41 Payroll Checks #63345-63357 & Advice #20592-20679	\$ 246,347.56
No. 42 Vendor Checks #69633-69657	\$ 49,882.87
No. 56 Vendor Checks #69657-69689	\$ 47,865.71
No. 67 Payroll Checks #63358-63368 & Advice #20680-20767	\$ 256,407.09
No. 68 Vendor Checks #69690-69721	\$ 46,059.28

3) Township Contracts

Ash Township

Newburg

Exeter to Burns

Drainage/Const. Eng

4) Approve the agreement with Hennessey Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$18,000 for construction engineering, inspection and staking services on the Newburg Road drainage improvement project, Ash Township, Monroe County, Michigan and authorize the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

5) Item pulled for further discussion.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the February 13, 2017 Consent Agenda as amended, pulling item #5 for further discussion. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

Item pulled for further discussion.

5. Approve and authorize the Managing Director to sign the MDOT State Trunkline Five-Year Contract.

Commissioner Minton asked Mr. Pierce if it was beneficial to the Road Commission to go out for a five-year contract with MDOT.

Mr. Pierce indicated he would recommend the Board authorize him to negotiation with MDOT for a 1-year contract and ask for \$3million. He doesn't feel the MCRC should eliminate the state contract, but there are concerns when it comes to future funding beginning in 2019. The current MDOT contract allows the state to implement a 4.9% reduction without notice; however should they reduce the contract by 5% the MCRC has the ability to cancel.

Mr. Masserant further explained that when the State experiences budget reductions, they can pass it down to Road Commissions.

Commissioner Londo inquired if the MCRC has ever experienced reductions. Mr. Masserant explained he has looked backed and there has been about a 9 percent decrease in funding since 2010. He indicated it is common to reshuffle line items after the winter. Revenues from the state have been flat since 2014.

Commissioner Minton is concerned about losing revenue that might affect in-house jobs. He agreed that the funding coming from the state's general fund in 2019 is a concern. He would recommend negotiating with the State for a period of one year.

Commissioner Londo indicated he has heard a lot of different comments about the state contract. He inquired if the contract covers the Road Commission's real costs. Mr. Masserant indicated yes, it reimburses for equipment, fringes, administration, etc.

Commissioner Londo asked if there is any built in escalation over the proposed five-year contract. Mr. Pierce indicated no, even though we negotiate with the state, the revenues for the last few years have been fairly flat.

Commissioner Londo asked how the new taxes would affect revenues- how much more will come to the local Road Commissions. Mr. Pierce indicated the MDOT contract is separate. Mr. Assenmacher added that new dollars that will be coming in have already been allocated for federal matching funds.

Commissioner Pace stated the state contract is valuable to the Road Commission. Under the state contract, MDOT pays for the lions share on tandem trucks used on state roads. The down side to the state contract is our crews cannot get onto the local roads for a couple days and by then the snow is packed and ice covered. He felt it is very important to keep the state contact, but wanted to go year by year through 2019. He also stated that MDOT not giving enough money to properly maintain state roads. The MCRC holds all the cards because MDOT will need to make a major investment in Monroe County should the Road Commission give up this contract. He would be in favor of authorizing the Managing Director to seek a one year contract, but would be good with a two year contract, if good.

Commissioner Pace moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to authorize the Managing Director to renegotiate with MDOT asking for a one year and \$3million state trunkline contact, but not to exceed two years if terms are favorable. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business -

1) Discussion on participation in the Monroe County Fair – booth #82.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he would like to postpone action until the next meeting.

Commissioner Pace moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to postpone discussion and action on this item until the 2/27/2017 regular meeting. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

9. New Business – None.

10. Report of Officers –

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce advised the Board the RSP (Road Status Program) is up and running. Information on that program was in his Managing Director communication.

The Board was given a draft contract for the Timbers Road local bridge located in Exeter Township. It would need board approval to proceed with mailing the contract to Exeter Township for their Board's approval. The Road Commission's portion would be \$67,600 according to the 75/25 split.

Mr. Pierce explained the staff's concerns about the Wells Road bridge being closed, and that Welch Road has reopened.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked for Mr. Pierce's recommendation for the Timbers Road bridge. Mr. Pierce explained that spending about \$90K on the structure now will extend the life approximately 20-25 years. To let the structure deteriorate will require in excess of \$900,000 to reconstruct.

Commissioner Londo asked if the money could be reallocated from the winter maintenance savings since this bridge is on a local road and isn't a high priority structure. Mr. Pierce indicated there is a misconception about having a mild winter. There isn't a savings on winter maintenance since the salt was purchased and paid for at the beginning of the season, plus money has been spent on putting down stone instead of pushing snow. Mr. Masserant indicated funds are available in the general fund for these types of emergency situations.

Commissioner Londo inquired about the funds needed to complete the NE salt facility. Mr. Pierce indicated money has been earmarked for the site; the TOPO has been completed, the site has been mowed and the staff is preparing to go out for bid for the site plan. Having the salt facility up and functional by November 2017 is still the goal.

Commissioner Pace asked what happens if we spend the money now on this local road structure and in few months a more important primary road bridge fails.

Commissioner Minton asked if the staff was working on a priority bridge list. Mr. Assenmacher explained that regular inspections are required for bridges over 20 foot in span. Monroe County has 166 structures. Culverts are classified as less than 20 feet wide. What criteria would the Board want to use to prioritize these structures --- ADT? Deficient? This is a huge problem with a huge need with only a small amount of money designated in the 2020 local bridge program. The engineering department is looking at entire road system and infrastructure to put together a roads, culvert/bridge needs list.

Commissioner Minton would like something that identifies immediate need situations. Mr. Assenmacher explained that would be more on the culvert side, than bridge. There are thousands of culverts in the county.

Currently, there isn't a condition inventory for culverts, and they fail quickly. There is a bridge inventory which is used when applying for federal funding. The MCRC is looking at all the assets, not just roads.

The Board was in agreement to forward the contract to Exeter Township for their approval.

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant distributed the three-month financials through 12/31/2016 to the Board for their review. The January financials should be available at the next meeting. The budget is currently on track and the staff will be reviewing projects with the townships for 2017. Once the contracts are signed, he will prepare a budget amendment for Board approval. He also provided the salt analysis as requested.

Keith C. Richard (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard explained the gravel road conditions are bad due to the freeze/thaw cycle. Some of the roads need stone lifts but townships don't have that type of money. Crews are out working in all townships placing the winter mix, and doing a good job. They will perform berm removal in the spring to improve the contour of the roads and promote drainage.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher indicated the frost laws were put on earlier then removed them for about a week, but with the recent warm weather they would need to be put back on effective Saturday, 2/18.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello stated he continues to work on the mailbox issues located in the road right-of-way. He is working with Frenchtown Township and the Love's Truck Stop on Nadeau Road; and on the haul route agreement for Nexus.

11. Public Comment -None.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace wished Mr. Pierce good luck and urged him be tough when negotiating with MDOT.

Commissioner Stewart was excused.

Commissioner Londo asked if Mr. Pierce had further conversations with Dundee Township on the southern portion of North County Line Road. Mr. Pierce indicated there has been no movement.

Commissioner Minton stated he is aware of the pipe stored at the Port of Monroe for a project running through Washtenaw and Monroe County. Mr. Assenmacher stated that has to do with the rail spurs in Dundee.

Commissioner Iacoangeli had nothing additional to report.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk