

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
February 22, 2016**

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 22, 2016 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

PRESENT

EXCUSED

Charles A. Londo
Bruce R. Stammer, Jr.
Dan Minton
Stephen J. Pace
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 Opening Silent Prayer.

5. Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the February 22, 2016 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried

6. Public Comment -

Jason Delmotte, 4980 Onway, wanted to discuss the Waucedah Avenue abandonment.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if he could wait to ask questions as this topic will be addressed under Unfinished Business.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- February 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 85 Payroll Checks #62959-62968 & Advice #18321-18406	\$
223,307.91	
Bank Service Charge - January 2016	\$ 107.55
No. 86 Vendor Checks #67782-67809	\$ 23,069.85
No. 100 Vendor Checks #67810-67866	\$ 462,613.83
Void Check #66846	\$ 47.41

3) Township Contracts

Bedford Township

2016 Primary Road Mowing

Erie Township

Dean	Minx to US24	Single chip seal
Erie	Minx to Strasburg	Single chip seal
Substation	Minx to US24	Single chip seal

Ida Township

2016 Mowing - Various Primary Roads

Whiteford Township

Clark	Ohio state line to Yankee	Fog seal
Jeffs-Doty	Jeffs to Whiteford Center	Spray patch/single seal
Lake	Roloff to Goetz	Spray patch/single seal
Roloff	Turk to Head-O-Lake	Spray patch/single seal
School	Bacon to Lake	Spray patch/single seal
Seegert	Memorial Hwy to County Line	Single chip seal
Turk	Roloff to US223	Spray patch/single seal

- 4) Approve and sign the Resolution for the MDOT contract for the U.S. Turnpike at Labo and Roberts Road intersection, Berlin Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan, and authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign the contract on behalf of the Board of County Road Commissioners.
- 5) Award bid for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (signs and sign materials) to all responding vendors.
- 6) Approve updated Special Designated, Designated and Normal Loading Roads Policy #2012-31.
- 7) Approve the contract with Mannik & Smith to perform full construction engineering services for the N. Dixie Hwy project (between Sandy Creek and N. Stoney Creek Road) as requested by Frenchtown Township, and authorize the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Stammer moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the February 22, 2016 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business -

- 1) Continued discussion on the abandonment of Waucedah Avenue, Whiteford Township.

Jason Delmotte, 4980 Onway, indicated he met with the Road Commission staff and talked with Whiteford Township about a resolution and determined that installing a guardrail would satisfy the needs of the neighborhood. He wanted to clarify that if the paper street isn't abandoned, it remains county property. The answer was the property would stay under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission.

Mr. Delmotte attended a township meeting and they were in agreement that guardrail at the end of the paper street and platted area was acceptable. With that agreement, Mr. Delmotte indicated he was willing to withdraw his request for abandonment.

Chairman Iacoangeli recapped the history for anyone in the audience not familiar with the topic. On January 25th the MCRC Board held a public hearing based on Mr. Delmotte's filing for an abandonment of Waucedah Avenue. At this point in time there has been no formal action taken on the request for abandonment.

At the public hearing the citizens of the subdivision voiced concerns over safety issues. At the public hearing, Whiteford Township Supervisor indicated their board unanimously voted against the abandonment due to future expansion of utilities. The township attorney also forwarded a letter confirming the township's position opposing the abandonment. The adjacent property owner Mr. Bennett was also in attendance at the public hearing indicating that he used that paper street to access his pole building behind Waucedah Avenue mainly for storage.

Chairman Iacoangeli indicated the Road Board was faced with the following issues:

1. The Township's opposition to the abandonment.
2. The residents concern for public safety.
3. Access to property for fire department

These were issues brought up prior to any discussion on the abandonment. In talking with the MCRC staff, a potential solution would be to install a guardrail at the end of the Waucedah Avenue paper street. Since Whiteford Township is a partner of the Road Commission's, Commissioner Iacoangeli felt it would not be in the best interest of the Road Commission to abandon the paper street and risk losing a partner.

Since Whiteford Township is in agreement that the installation of a guardrail at the end of that paper street and platted subdivision, the Road Board would consider that a workable resolution to the concerns voiced. To leave the paper street as is does nothing to address the safety concerns voiced. Installing the guardrail will address safety concerns, and it still allows the fire department access with their extended hoses, plus there is a driveway access off Whiteford Road. In his opinion, Chairman Iacoangeli indicated it may not please everyone, but this is a workable solution and satisfies the majority of concerns.

Chairman Iacoangeli indicated since Jason Delmotte has withdrawn his petition to abandon Waucedah Avenue, the Board does not need to take any action.

Commissioner Londo asked what other issues were involved if the residents are satisfied with the installation of the guardrail. Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated there are probably other issues from members of the audience.

Commissioner Pace asked if Mr. Delmotte spoke for the all the residents. Mr. Delmotte indicated he was representing the ones who originally signed the petition.

Commissioner Pace asked where the guardrail was going to be installed. Mr. Pierce stated at the end of the Road Commission's liability, not on Onway Drive.

County Highway Engineer, Scott F. Assenmacher, indicated that the Road Commission has control over this paper street but reminded the Board that it is not a certified road. It is merely a paper street and the guardrail will be installed at the end of the platted area.

Ryan Bennett, 6496 Whiteford Road, indicated there are always two sides to every story. The residents east of the paper street access point are against it, yet the residents to the west do not have a problem with it. He only uses a pick-up with 2 mowers and a trailer going in and out of this access point. He stated there is other commercial traffic that uses these roads as well. Mr. Bennett indicated he understood the position the county was taking legally, but stated there are multiple roads just like this one throughout the county not barricaded and signed.

Mr. Bennett stated he felt like he was being discriminated against since the guardrail was not being installed at Onway but at the plat line which took away the right of one citizen to use it but not the other. He informed the Board that he has filed an application for a driveway permit to access his property. As for the fire department having access, they can come off Whiteford Road, but it was also an easy access point to come off Waucedah. He addressed the safety concerns stating he has children and other children play on the roads as well.

Commissioner Londo asked for clarification as to Mr. Bennett's comments about east vs. west.

Mr. Bennett explained that the residents east of the paper street are supporting the abandonment, but the residents on the west side of the property are not opposed to him using the paper street and they are the ones that would experience the additional traffic. The residents supporting the abandonment learned if the property is abandoned the township would keep the property. Some of the residents are against him using the access point off the public road. Mr. Bennett presented a plat drawing to show the location of the access point and colored to show which neighbors are for or against him using the paper street. He isn't sure why people on the east are so opposed to him using that street when he doesn't go in front of their homes.

A resident living at 5026 Onway, asked how the fire department would access the back of all their property if the guardrail is put up. There is no access off Whiteford Road that runs behind his property. He also asked why the other dead end roads in the subdivision aren't getting guardrails when Onway and Tawas have the same situation.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated from his 27 years as a firefighter, they will take whatever means necessary to fight a fire. He also indicated the safety issue was brought to the Board's attention which required attention. This may not be the perfect solution but it brings a resolution to the issue brought to the Board's attention. This is one of the reasons people try not to get "big brother" involved because you never know what you are going to get.

Brittany Gardner, 5002 Onway, stated she lives west of the paper street and she does not want the commercial traffic on her street.

Ryan Bennett also stated there may be a non-compliant driveway off of Onway. He felt the Road Commission Board or staff should look into the non-permitted driveway coming off Onway that uses that road daily.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the Road Commission Board didn't need to take any action since the request for abandonment has been withdrawn.

Commissioner Pace asked legal counsel if the Road Commission was looking at a potential lawsuit if a guardrail was installed. Mr. Costello indicated no due to it being installed for safety reasons.

Wilbur Dilbone, 4900 Onway, stated he lived at the dead end and there is a sign and a huge load of stone dumped to keep people from going back there.

Commissioner Minton clarified this request was brought before the Road Board because an application for abandonment was submitted. The township took unanimous action to formally request that the Road Commission not abandon this paper street.

9. New Business – None.

10. Report of Officers –

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce indicated the weather forecast is calling for rain turning into snow mid-week. Ice blades are being put on the trucks and then they will be changed back to county blades for pushing the snow.

Mr. Pierce also indicated that he appreciated all the work Phil Masserant did on updating the budget information and salt analysis for the Board.

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant explained that the Board was given a copy of the Actuarial report for the OPEB through 12/31/2014. The Road Commission began funding this account on a regular basis in January 2014. He reviewed the highlights citing the fund is now 5.3% funded with an unfunded liability of \$24.8 million. The Road Commission will continue to pay retiree health care premiums on as-you-go basis out of the county road funds. The required contribution to this fund is 18.9% or approximately \$850,000 annually. These reports are done every 2 years.

Commissioner Londo inquired if he had been able to reconcile the investment return from the actuarial study. Mr. Masserant indicated he would be meeting with Mr. Cho on Tuesday to discuss several questions.

Mr. Masserant reviewed the 4 month financial comparison with the Board. It shows how 2015 ended and what is projected for 2016 along with departmental expenditure reports. Once township contracts are received and approved, he will come back with a budget amendment showing additional revenues and expenditures associated with projects. The salt usage report was through 1/31/2016 which reflected approximately 33% of the salt budget has been used thus far. Any salt not used this year will help reduce next year's outlay.

Commissioners Iacoangeli and Minton commended Mr. Masserant on the nice report.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher updated the Board on the request from the Monroe Boat Club (Bolles Harbor) explaining the staff will be working with them on a resolution and he would keep the Board posted on the progress.

A copy of the draft MCRC Roadside Drainage policy was provided to the Board in the Managing Director communication. This draft policy has been reviewed by the staff, maintenance (drainage) personnel and legal counsel. This would be a policy and not an SOP therefore comments would be appreciated from the Board.

Mr. Assenmacher also informed the Board that the frost laws would be implemented on Tuesday due to the warmer temperatures.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello indicated he was reviewing the request to amend and extend the tower lease. As soon as he completes his review, it will be brought to the Board for approval. He also indicated the staff has proposed a resolution to the drainage situation in South Monroe Townsite, and they are waiting for a response from the homeowner for repairs to the drainage tile.

11. Public Comment -

Dan Thomas, 12860 Allenhurst Road, LaSalle, indicated he is representing the Monroe Boat Club and wanted to thank the Board for their review of the information that was submitted to them. He wanted to thank Scott Assenmacher and the staff for working with them and proposing alternative solutions. He wanted the Board to be aware of the support given him from the staff.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Stammer indicated the Board was given a copy of the Bedford Trade Fair schedule. He met with Scott Assenmacher and Cheryl A. U'Ran and they were working on assignment details for the booth. He also indicated he would set up and tear down the booth but it would be nice to have volunteers help with the booth.

Commissioner Londo had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Minton stated it was always nice to hear a citizen share the staff was supportive in finding a solution to a problem. The Board is aware of staff members being fully committed to working with citizens but it is always nice to hear from the public. Thank you.

Commissioner Iacoangeli thanked everyone for taking time out of their day to come to the meeting. He stated he always appreciates citizens input.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk