

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
February 23, 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 23, 2015 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:35 p.m.

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

Chairman Iacoangeli led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Commissioner Stammer 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 February 23, 2015 regular meeting agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

5. Public Comment -

David Hoffman, County Commissioner, indicated he spoke with two other interested (county) commissioners about putting a committee together to study Plank Road. He talked with Bucky Brooks about working together on a special project like they did on Romine and Exeter Roads. He felt this would give an opportunity on the county's part to start helping on some road projects. He mentioned the study would be a good place to start by including the three county commissioners. He stated he wasn't sure who the other two commissioners would be or if they would be appointed. Mr. Hoffman indicated getting things in place would help set things in a good direction to match monies between the county, the townships and the Road Commission like we have in the past.

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

- 1) Approval of Minutes- February 9, 2015 Regular Minutes

- 2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 74 Payroll Checks#62581-62592 & Advice #16048-16126	\$ 299,278.73
J. Allen vacation payout/resignation Check #62579-62580	\$ 2,447.55
Bank Service Charge - January 2015	\$ 88.20
No. 79 Vendor Checks #65895-65911	\$ 135,105.48
No. 81 Vendor Checks #65912-65945	\$ 153,360.63

- 3) Township Contract - N/A

- 4) Approve the annual County Wide Act 51 Certification title sheet and Urban Area Act 51 Certification title sheet and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board of County Road Commissioners.

- 5) Award bid for Uniform Traffic Control Devices to all responding vendors.

- 6) Award bid to low bidder, National Industrial Maintenance, for State Sweeping Curb and Gutter for 2015, 2016 and 2017 in the amount of \$145,275.27 as recommended by Tom Simpson/MDOT.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the February 23, 2015 Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

7. Unfinished Business -

1) Review the MCRC Rules of Order.

Commissioner Londo mentioned a few corrections to the document presented. No additional comments, changes or corrections.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the MCRC Rules of Order as presented and corrected. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

8. New Business -

1) Pre-approve the Countywide Tree Removal bid to be opened 2/24/2015 and award bid to the low bidder as approved by the Managing Director and County Highway Engineer as presented in the memo dated 2/18/2015.

Mr. Pierce indicated this item is in connection with the nesting of the long-eared bat. Mr. Assenmacher explained that trees need to be knocked down prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> and the total project completed before 5/1 due to the nesting of the long eared bat. The species may become endangered so the Road Commission didn't want to wait to get the trees knocked down to avoid interruption to their nesting period. To delay the awarding of this bid could negatively affect several projects.

Commissioner Londo clarified once the bats are roosted they won't want to disrupt them.

Commissioner Minton indicated he was hesitant to pre-approve a bid. He asked if the bid is not pre-approved and they wait until the next regular meeting, would really hinder getting the work done.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated technically the migration period begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked what would happen if bid came in higher.

Mr. Assenmacher stated that is correct that the trees need to be taken down before they are nested in the trees and since the contractors will need as much time as possible, yes would be better to be able to award the bid after the opening tomorrow to give them as much time as they need to get these trees knocked down. The removal and chopping of material can take place at a later date. Mr. Assenmacher further explained this is an irregular request and comes with a unique set of circumstances. The Board also has the ability to set a limit for their approval or possibly call a special meeting to review the bid should the Board so desire. To delay awarding this bid would give the contractors about 2 ½ less weeks to get this work done.

Commissioner Stammer indicated that in the past the Board has set a limit, and if the bid came in within that amount the staff could move forward.

Commissioner Londo moved, supported by Commissioner Iacoangeli to pre-approve the Countywide Tree Removal bid and award to low bidder in an amount not to exceed \$79,915 based on the Engineer's estimate.

Roll Call Vote:	YES	NO	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
	Stammer	-0-	Pace	-0-
	Londo			
	Minton			
	Iacoangeli			

Yes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

2) Dundee Township letter and Resolution on Plank Road.

Mr. Pierce indicated the staff worked together to address some of the concerns related to Plank Road. Mr. Smith put together a memo outlining the history of the road and providing a few options for review.

Mr. Smith explained that based on the letter received from Dundee Township the Board had directed staff to look into options for Plank Road. In working with Scott Assenmacher and David Leach, he was able to put together a simple history and overview on this road and possible future maintenance costs.

It would take a great deal of money to rehabilitate approximately 9.5 miles of this road. This memo outlining options is a starting point to help bring together all the parties to discuss how to proceed. A minimum type of fix would cost approximately \$130,000 per mile to treat the surface but it all depends on the funding made available.

Commissioner Londo stated he was curious about all the options and how the Board was going to choose. Mr. Smith indicated the staff was not asking the Board to select an option, we were simply trying to outline the magnitude of options given information on the GOOD/BETTER/BEST fixes available. He explained for each section of road, there could be different options and fixes based on the condition of the roadway- the south end is more of a chip seal road where the north end is an old asphalt road. Other than pothole patching, the road has not seen any major improvements in about 30 years.

Commissioner Londo asked if this road was on any list for future plans or could it be part of the budgeting process. Mr. Assenmacher explained Plank Road is not on currently on any list. There is no funding component which would be needed in order to get it on a list.

Commissioner Londo inquired if this road is on the list of priority roads and if has been included in the Road Commission's budget process. Mr. Assenmacher explained the road could be part of the budget process, but the Road Commission's priority has been to preserve those assets where money has been recently invested in roads to keep them within the good and fair rating. To focus on roads that are rated 1 - 2 - 3 would leave no money to provide work to keep the good roads in good shape. Approximately 50-60% of funds are being targeted to preserve the fair and good rated roads. Most people believe that the poor rated roads are being neglected, but they are receiving routine maintenance like pothole patching, but because they are so far gone that it will take some type of major improvement to bring back up to a fair status.

Commissioner Londo stated we are waiting on a future funding source. Mr. Assenmacher explained Plank is similar to Samaria in that it is a long stretch of road and is in need of more than just some type of surface treatment. State money was provided to apply to fixing Samaria Road.

Mr. Assenmacher explained Plank Road is federal aid eligible but it wouldn't be wise to put all the rural money on one section of road, and neglect other roads in the other townships. The plan would be to do something locally then use federal aid dollars to perform surface treatments in the future to maintain the road. A funding mechanism needs to be put in place for this road.

Commissioner Londo asked if the staff could explain passer ratings as he was not familiar with it. Mr. Smith explained that the passer rating system is a rating on a scale of 1(old) – 10 (newly reconstructed) for pavement.

Commissioner Londo questioned if the Road Commission should be allocating money for some time in the future to put toward passer rated roads. Mr. Assenmacher stated a workshop would provide an opportunity to discuss options in greater detail and discuss possible funding.

Commissioner Londo mentioned on the last page of the report, Mr. Smith mentioned holding a workshop to discuss the scope and potential funding, and to invite representatives from Dundee, London, Raisinville and Milan Township and the 3 member committee from the Board of County Commissioners. He asked who the 3 members were. Mr. Smith indicated David Hoffman mentioned a committee. Mr. Assenmacher explained the Road Commission was providing an opportunity to the County to be part of the discussions.

Mr. Pierce explained that the Road Commission received an email from David Hoffman indicating the county was putting together a committee of three county commissioners to look into Plank Road.

Mr. Hoffman (from the audience) stated the county would like to help out and wants to work together to find a solution. The committee would take a recommendation back to their full board. He said the County has helped on other projects and they might look at just the worst parts, like Yensch to Ostrander on the south end. The topic of a committee is on the county agenda for further discussion so he is working on it.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if the passer rating was geared toward keeping the road that are in good shape in good shape. Mr. Smith indicated the passer is only a means to rate the road pavement and not a program for preventive maintenance. Normally a road rating of 1 or 2 means the road is in very poor condition and would need reconstruction, not a surface treatment. Chip sealing a road would essentially be a waste of money on a 1 or 2 rated road.

Mr. Assenmacher mentioned Asset Management training would be helpful. Commissioner Stammer and Mr. Pierce have attended this type of training. There are training opportunities and in the past the Road Commission hosted an event in Dundee geared toward elected officials to help them understand how to best utilize their resources to maintain assets (roads, bridges and culverts). He will check into opportunities for this training and keep the board advised.

Commissioner Minton indicated Asset Management are the key words to balance out the dollars available to all roads. It is an important concept in Asset Management that you don't use all your funds on one road while letting the others fall into poor condition. He felt the Road Commission needed a 5-year plan on how we plan to address these roads.

Mr. Pierce stated the Road Commission has not neglected Plank Road but has prepared numerous estimates in the past for possible work on this road. It has been an ongoing battle with a road in such poor condition but routine maintenance has been done. Plank Road was at the top of the RRR list given to the State but it was not selected; roads like Samaria, Wabash, Tuttle Hill, Vivian/Cole intersection and work on I-75 were chosen by the State.

Mr. Pierce explained the Road Commission is not in a position financially to fund reconstruction on this road at this time. The Road Commission is looking at options that include building this road in stages to stretch the investment over a set period of years.

Mr. Pierce stated he will be attending the Dundee Township board meeting tomorrow evening to discuss options available. The Road Commission has to do what is best for the community and the road system as a whole and try not to focus on just one area because there are a lot of roads falling into the deterioration stage.

Commissioner Londo inquired about page 2 of the report that addressed the average daily traffic volume and asked how Plank compares to other roads.

Mr. Smith indicated the south end of Plank Road is low probably because people who know about the poor road condition would avoid driving on it. He stated if the road was in better the condition you would see more traffic. He would guess that most people use M-50 to avoid Plank Road.

Commissioner Iacoangeli agreed that getting all the interested parties together would be beneficial to explore some options.

Mr. Assenmacher felt a key part of the discussion should be to understand up front “what are the expectations.” We should identify a clear goal and expectation, and then explore the possible fixes and a list of monies associated with each possible fix.

Commissioner Minton asked if it was appropriate for the Board to set a date for the workshop and invite the parties interested in Plank Road.

Commissioner Iacoangeli questioned whether a Saturday morning workshop might be an idea, not knowing what the other townships schedules were like.

Gerry Blanchett (Raisinville Township Supervisor) indicated the discussion could be similar to what took place with Exeter Road when everyone participated in a solution. The workshop could be held during the week and suggested the Road Commission send out 2-3 available days as options and find what worked for the majority.

Mr. Pierce indicated he would be attending the Dundee Township meeting and would discuss possible dates with them and then send out information to Raisinville, London, Milan Townships and County officials. He also inquired if the Board felt providing the 7 options highlighted in the memo would be a good idea to share with Dundee.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated providing that information to Dundee would prove helpful, and thanked the staff for the great packet of information on the topic.

3) Participation in the Monroe County Fair Booth/August 2-8, 2015.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated it would cost the Road Commission \$450 to participate in the 2015 Monroe County Fair with \$425 being for booth rental and \$25 for tables and chairs rental.

Commissioner Minton felt it was a great idea to participate in the fair as it offered an opportunity to educate the public.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to authorize the payment of \$450 to participate in the 2015 Monroe County Fair.

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carried.

9. Report of Officers –

*Randy Pierce* (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce explained the Field Safety Incident Prevention Plan was placed on hold to allow Local #543 to review the document. He included the January 2015 Customer Service Report in his communication to the Board, and Mr. Masserant provided the updated winter maintenance costs information to the Board.

Mr. Masserant explained he updated the information to include the costs associated with the winter snow event on the weekend of 2/14. The costs are approximately 26% lower than this time last year, but the Road Commission has spent more money in material (salt) than last year due to the 64% increase in salt prices. He will continue to monitor the winter season costs against the budget.

Mr. Pierce also indicated a tentative closing date of March 3rd has been set for the sale of the Dundee property, but no time has been chosen yet.

Commissioner Londo indicated the signing of the AFSCME contract has been on the Managing Director communication for several months and asked the status. Mr. Pierce indicated the union is still reviewing the document and there have been several snow events that may have delayed the ability to review, but he would try to follow up with the union leadership.

*Phillip C. Masserant* (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant indicated Scot Hoskins from Stewart, Beauvais & Whipple would be presenting the 2014 audited results at the April 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

*Michael L. Smith* (Director of Operations) – Mr. Smith indicated the bids for roadside mowing on primary roads are out with a bid opening of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Maintenance night shift employees are working with the engineering staff to inventory the guardrails in the county using the laptop and GPS. He hoped to put together a guardrail spray program this year to see if we can keep the vegetation down around the guardrails. Mr. Smith also mentioned projects estimates have been sent to the townships and the Road Commission asked for a response back mid-March. This will give the staff to put together the bid proposals for county wide paving bid and county wide overband crack fill that would go out mid-April.

*Scott Assenmacher* (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher stated the engineering department continues to work on 2015 obligated projects and follow up with the 2014 rollover projects and paperwork. He also distributed the updated Federal Aid list that was approved at the recent Federal Aid meeting.

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

10. Extended Public Comment -

Gary Lazette, Dundee Township, felt the reason for the low traffic count on Plank Road was people avoid that road at all costs. Those numbers are not a true reflection on the number of cars that would normally use that road. He mentioned Dundee Township is willing to assist on Plank Road similar to when they participated with the Road Commission on Bigelow Road. He appreciated the Road Board addressing the issue and looked forward to the workshop.

Gary Williams, Local #543 President, thanked the Board for hiring three new people but stressed the importance of needing another mechanic should Matt Purcell get promoted. The garage needs the extra bodies and had eight mechanics in the past so they could use another mechanic.

David Hoffman indicate Milan Township Supervisor Phil Heath had stopped in but had to leave but wanted the board to know he appreciated the good work the crews had been doing this winter.

11. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Pace* – EXCUSED.

*Commissioner Stammer* thanked the Board for their enthusiasm toward the Bedford Trade Fair and Monroe County Fair. He felt these really helped to educate the public.

Commissioner Stammer also felt a workshop to bring all the parties together to discuss Plank Road would be helpful to start the process.

*Commissioner Londo* stated he has people telling him he is doing a wonderful job since coming on the Board, but he tells them it isn't him, the guys are just doing a good job. People are elated that their roads are being cleared in a timely manner. He is proud to say the guys are making a difference. He told them to keep it up, the community is noticing.

*Commissioner Minton* thanked all those who put the information together on Plank Road. He recognized all the work and effort that went into that document. He understood the report and appreciated it. Commissioner Minton he was traveling on Plank Road several years back where the window shattered while driving on that road. This potential project deserves attention.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* also commended the staff on the Plank Road information. He mentioned he intentionally drove Plank Road on his way back from Lansing last week and sympathizes with the people who have to drive that road. The road is absolutely terrible and hopes the talks will generate some possible solutions. He appreciated the effort of the entire staff when responding to the Board's inquiries.

Commissioner Londo mentioned that Plank Road is the focus point this week, but how many other roads are like this one. We tend to focus on the one where people are complaining the most, while there are many other roads that are in just as bad shape.

Instead of concentrating on one problem road, he would like to see the workshop be expanded to a broader discussion on all the roads that need greatest attention to start a plan and not just dealing with one road. The Road Commission doesn't need to focus on one road, but concentrate on the bigger picture. We need to look at a long term, global approach for these important roads.

12. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

*Cheryl A. U'Ran*

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Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk