

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
Monday, February 27, 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 27, 2017 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

**PRESENT**

Dan Minton  
Stephen J. Pace  
Charles A. Londo  
Greg W. Stewart  
Paul Iacoangeli

**EXCUSED**

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

3. Commissioner Iacoangeli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Commissioner Iacoangeli led the Opening Prayer.

5. Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the February 27, 2017 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment -

Gary Williams, President Local #543, stated as an organization is doing good overall, but he voiced several concerns about safety protocol. He mentioned issues with the hoists, eye wash stations, blocked entrances and LED lights on the trucks. He said it isn't up to the employees to manage the safety concerns once they are reported. He stated he didn't want to see any employee hurt so issues need to be addressed in a timely manner.

David Hoffman, County Commissioner, indicated there is a problem with the work that was done on Brewer Road. He was concerned that there are sections of failure on this road that needs to be looked at and corrected. He stated he had already talked with Mr. Pierce, but felt the Board should be aware as well. He was also hopeful that the failed culvert on Wells Road that closed the road, would soon be taken care of. He believed this culvert was being handled by the Drain Commissioner.

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

Commissioner Londo asked to pull item #3/Township Contracts for further discussion.

1) Approval of Minutes- February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 74 Vendor Checks #69722	\$ 15,000.00
No. 82 Vendor Checks #69723-69784	\$ 329,712.26
No. 86 Payroll Checks #63369-63381 & Advice #20768-20854	\$ 228,295.25

3) Township Contracts

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the February 27, 2017 Consent Agenda except for item #3/Township Contracts. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

#3) Township Contracts - pulled for further discussion.

Commissioner Londo inquired if there was a specific time frame for these projects, or are the projects just on-going during the entire construction season.

Mr. Richard indicated each project has different time frame. Some contracts will be performed by MCRC crews, while some will be done by contractors. Some of the projects requires a sequence of work which will be done between May and September construction season. The MCRC crews will be performing the single- and double chip seal work and spray patching, and the HMA and overband crack fill will be done by contractors.

Ash Township

Berlin	Carleton Rockwood to Ready	Single chip seal
Earle	Grafton to dead end	Mill & Fill
Indiana	Grafton to dead end	Single chip seal
Maxwell	Sigler to Scofield Carleton	Single chip seal
Newburg	Grafton to Burns	Single chip seal
Newburg	Briarhill to RR tracks	Base Stabilize/DbI Seal/Drain-ditching
Newburg	Port Creek to US 24	Base Stabilize/DbI Seal/Drain-ditching
Swan Creek	Newport to Labo	Single chip seal
Sweitzer	Ready to Carleton Rockwood	Single chip seal
Virginia/Mean Lane	Grafton to dead end	Single chip seal

Berlin Charter Township

Armstrong	N. Dixie Hwy to Labo	Single chip seal
Berlin	Carleton Rockwood to Ready	Single chip seal
Bomia	N. Dixie Hwy to gravel section	Clean/Seal Concrete joints
Brandon	Labo to Sigler	Deep Strength Patches/HMA
Drew	Newport to Swan Creek	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
Forrest	Post to dead end	Single chip seal
Frey/Melvina/Schuler/Miller	Off Post	Single chip seal
Labo	N. Dixie Hwy to US Turnpike	Single chip seal
Port Sunlight	US Turnpike to Village limits	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
South	N. Dixie Hwy to Swan Creek	Single chip seal
Swan Creek	Newport to Labo	Single chip seal
Trombley	Strong to Masserant	Zone Patch/Single chip seal
Wassenova	Huron River to Sigler	Single chip seal
2017 Local Road Mowing		
2017 Excess Gradall		

Dundee Township

Nieman	M-50 to Dunbar	Stone in Place
--------	----------------	----------------

Exeter Township

Timbers Road	bridge @ Stony Creek	Rehabilitation
--------------	----------------------	----------------

Ida Township

Douglas	Rauch to 2700' North	Single Chip Seal
Ida Center	Minx to Geiger	HMA leveling/surface/shoulders
Lulu	Jackman to Minx	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
Todd	Douglas to Secor	Spray Patch/Single Chip seal

Monroe Charter Township

Canterbury Farms Sub	Off Mortar Creek	Singe Course micro seal
Leedys Gardens Sub	Off M-125	Overbank crack fill
N. Monroe Plats (Shopping Center) btwn 8 <sup>th</sup> & Union		Spray Patch/Single chip seal/fog seal
Northfield Village Sub	West of M-125	Zone Patch/Single micro surface

Whiteford Township

Lynch	Memorial Hwy to Clark	Zone Patch/Single chip seal
School	Whiteford to dead end	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
Stateline	Whiteford to Acres	Single chip seal
Turk	Temperance to Roloff	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
Turk	Beck to Sterns	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
Whiteford	St. Anthony to Temperance	HMA
Whiteford	School to St. Anthony	Spray Patch/Single chip seal
2017 Local Road Mowing		

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve item #3/Township Contracts as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business -

1) Discussion on Monroe County Fair - booth #82.

Commissioner Iacoangeli wanted to make sure there was enough interest in participating in the 2017 County Fair to man the booth before authorizing payment. In the past, Commissioner Iacoangeli and Bob Stammer manned the nights and weekend slots, but Mr. Stammer is no longer on the board and help is needed to cover all the time slots.

Commissioner Stewart indicated he could work the booth on Sunday, 7/30. Commissioner Londo indicated he would hate not to do the fair as it is good PR exposure so he would be willing to help also.

Commissioner Minton indicated he would not be able to help as he is scheduled out of town that week.

Commissioner Londo asked the staff their opinion on whether participating was beneficial. Mr. Pierce felt it provided an opportunity for the public to express their concerns and ask questions. Mr. Assenmacher agreed it provided the opportunity to educate the public on road issues.

Commissioner Pace felt Local #543 and AFSCME should be given the opportunity to work at the fair.

Commissioner Stewart felt the trade fair and county fair was a good public outreach and it was important to participate to get the correct message out.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to authorize the expenditure of \$475 rental of booth #82 at the Monroe County Fair. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

2) Continued discussion on the Abandonment request for the alley in the Joe E. Labo Subdivision, Frenchtown Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

Mr. Costello indicated the proper notice was given and the DNR had no problem with the abandonment. An agreement has been made between the property owners and Frenchtown Charter Township outlining an easement for access.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the Resolution to abandon the alley in the Joe E. Labo Subdivision, Frenchtown Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Pace questioned why the State wouldn't accept a 1-2 year contract, and felt the MCRC should opt out today.

Mr. Pierce explained that the staff met with the MDOT representatives for 2 hours but was unable to come to any type of agreement for a shorter term contract. The MCRC can now opt out of State Trunkline contract if one years' notice is given. Should the MCRC want to opt out, notice would need to be given before 10/1/2017 then the contract would be done 9/30/2018.

Commissioner Pace felt MDOT was not providing enough money to maintain their state roads which makes the MCRC look bad. Taking care of the state routes first during snow events means that primary and local roads take a back seat and citizens aren't seeing their roads cleared for 2-3 days after an event.

Commissioner Stewart agreed that citizens are suffering during snow events by trucks being concentrated on state highways and not local roads. He asked if there was any penalty associated with opting out. Mr. Masserant indicated the MCRC might be required to pay back any of advancement.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the staff had a concern about the 5-year term, but now that the opt out provision is in place he felt it was an acceptable contract to approve. He didn't feel the MCRC should just leave the state hanging and felt comfortable approving the contract as presented with the new opt out clause. This is a 5-year contract from 10/1/2016 through 9/30/2021 with an opt out clause providing one year notice is given.

Commissioner Londo indicated he learned a lot more about the benefits of the state contract. They do cover a portion of overhead costs which is a pro in his book. He is satisfied with moving forward to approve the contract with the built in opt out provision.

Commissioner Stewart felt the MCRC needed to find a path out of the state contract but after listening to everyone, we should move to approve the contract with the opt out provision at this time. We are almost already through the first year and he would support approving the contract with evaluation to be done before 9/30/2017.

Commissioner Minton asked how many employees this would affect by eliminating the MDOT contract. Mr. Masserant after analyzing the information, the state contracts supports about 8-9 employees. Financially it is a good contract based on the 20% that is being reimbursed for direct charges, equipment, fringe and overhead costs.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Minto to approve the MDOT State Trunkline Five-Year Contract from 10/1/2016 through 9/30/2021 and authorize the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the Board. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 Motion carried.

9. New Business -

- 1) Discussion on 2017-2018 projects and funding.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the workshop was cancelled as information was not readily available. He would like to delay this item to the 3/13/2017 regular meeting to allow a representative to come in to answer from questions.

Commissioner Londo asked if this topic was initiated due to a letter being sent out to all governmental agencies who might be interested in bonding or road notes.

Mr. Pierce explained that the idea of bonding for road improvements had been discussed so he reached out to a company that the MCRC had used in the past to get updated information for the board's review. Other Road Commissions are gearing up due to the anticipated increase in revenues and cities and villages have already begun the process to go out for bonds for roads. There will be a representative attending the 3/13/2017 to answer any questions about the pros and cons of bonding versus road notes.

10. Report of Officers -

*Randy Pierce* (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) - Mr. Pierce had nothing additional to report.

*Phillip C. Masserant* (Director of Finance) - Mr. Masserant explained they are waiting on information from the pension's actuary to finish the audit.

Commissioner Londo indicated the county is moving on the financial advisor RFP for the pension and retiree health care funds. Mr. Masserant indicated that is correct and the MCRC submitted information to the county to be included and was unsure of when the proposals were due back.

*Keith C. Richard* (Director of Operations) - Mr. Richard indicated the crews have been working diligently on the roads trying to keep them in decent shape combating the freeze/thaw cycle. This is happening state wide. It has been an unusual winter.

*Scott Assenmacher* (County Highway Engineer) - Mr. Assenmacher explained they have been watching the weather and evaluating the frost laws. Some Road Commissions have already removed and some are forecasting removal a week from today.

*Philip Costello* (General Counsel) - Mr. Costello had nothing additional to report.

11. Public Comment -

David Hoffman indicated the MCRC should opt out of the trunkline contract and play hard ball with the state. There is plenty of work for our employees.

Mr. Hoffman also stated he saw a MCRC truck using his belly blade to relieve water off the road and did a good job on Sherman Road.

Bob Queen, Exeter Township Supervisor, indicated he would not be able to attend the 3/13 meeting due to a conflict in his schedule. He also stated he has been receiving good reviews and positive feedback on the work being done on roads.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Pace* stressed the importance of safety in the workplace. LED lights are important for safety of the drivers so they can see. He also stressed that complaints and safety concerns should be channeled through the proper staff.

*Commissioner Stewart* stated he would be attending the New Road Commissioner workshop in Lansing on 3/14. He also had a sign up sheet for anyone interested in helping man the booth at the Bedford Trade Fair. He also agreed with Commissioner Pace about needing to get away from the state contract but voted for it because we can now plan to opt out on our own terms. He also stressed the importance of safety policies and procedures.

*Commissioner Londo* stated there has been a great deal of activity on the roads over the last year. He felt it was a combined product of all the staff and employees working together. He felt the discussion on financing will possibly result in an upswing of activity in term of road construction and repairs. He estimated the activity ramping up with the anticipated revenues. Keep up the good work and keep moving forward.

*Commissioner Minton* also stressed the importance of safety. He wanted to make sure that policies and procedures are being followed and shame on us if they aren't. He stated there should be regular safety committee meetings and follow up done on concerns.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* indicated the board would hear more information on bonds and road notes at the 3/13 regular meeting. If needed, a workshop would be scheduled for further discussion.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

*Cheryl A. U'Ran*

-----  
Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk