

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
March 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, March 13, 2017 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

**PRESENT**

Greg W. Stewart

Dan Minton

Charles A. Londo

Paul Iacoangeli

**EXCUSED**

Stephen J. Pace

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 March 13, 2017 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1  
Motion carried.

6. Public Comment -

Peggy Taylor-Aubaugh, 5444 N. County Line Road, Britton, came to check on the progress of North County Line Road.

7. PRESENTATION - Michigan's Oldest Road - Rusty Davis and Bill Saul

Rusty Davis and Bill Saul from the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation distributed information on Hull's Road, Michigan's "First" Road and showed a powerpoint slide presentation and displayed historic maps and unique places along the route. They asked the MCRC Board for a letter of support to designate this road A Pure Michigan By-Way. Through their research this is classified as Michigan's first road.

This road runs from Wayne County where it is known as West Jefferson Avenue crossing into Monroe County at the Huron River, it becomes US Turnpike/North Dixie Hwy. South of the River Raisin in Monroe the roads takes on different characters due to route changes, but Winchester Street, Kentucky Avenue, Hull Road, South Monroe Street, M-125 and then again it becomes South Dixie Hwy all the way to the Michigan-Ohio state line.

This road appeared on the 1804 postal map, and was considered a Native foot trail through the Michigan wilderness passing through two Native settlements and linking the rapids on the Miami (Maumee) River with the former French settlement of Detroit.

Hull's Road was the first surveyed and improved road in Michigan. It is sixty-six miles long and every battle in Lower Michigan during the War of 1812 occurred on this road. It was heavily used by the American, British and Canadian armies and was the primary route into Michigan territory for about 20 years. Hull marched troops into Michigan from Ohio on this road.

In 1817, it was obvious Michigan needed to be linked with the rest of the country. Michigan was isolated. He presented the first drawing for the City of Monroe dated 9/4/1817 declaring it the county seat and the "Town of Monroe."

In 1824, Congress passed more money to build a better road which was called the United States Road and the Ohio line was moved which is what you have today beginning with M-125 at the state line. It is the most important road in Michigan due to the history associated with it. It is considered the first national highway in Michigan. US-12 also holds a designation of a Pure Michigan By-Way.

They would like a letter of support from the MCRC to help establish this road with the designation as a Pure Michigan Bi-Way in order to recognize its historic significance and value as an economic corridor. Mr. Davis explained that getting the designation for this historic route would help promote tourism. Currently, the Heritage Trail (in the City of Monroe) is recognized as a Pure Michigan By-Way on Monroe Street from Jones Avenue to the Raisin River and is promoted on the MDOT website. Free advertising for recreational tourism.

They have received approval to submit an application for the southern portion from Monroe to the state line, and they will be submitting that soon but eventually they would like to have the State of Michigan recognize the entire length as a Pure Michigan By-Way, but the portion in Wayne County will be difficult to document.

Commissioner Stewart inquired why the Battle of the War of Toledo isn't listed as a historical marker. Mr. Davis thought it was included in the list but explained there were limitations in what could be included.

Mr. Saul stated that Mr. Davis has spent a great deal of time working and researching the information and history of this road.

Commissioner Minton thanked the men for the presentation citing he learned a lot from their presentation.

Commissioner Iacoangeli explained he had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Davis at a different presented and reviewed the maps they have available. He found it interesting that they used to measure distances with chain link fencing and it is amazing accurate.

Commissioner Iacoangeli inquired if they had a sample letter of support that the Board might review. Mr. Davis indicated he would email a sample to Commissioner Iacoangeli.

Commissioner Londo asked where a letter should be sent and about the State designation. Mr. Davis indicated a letter of support would need to be sent to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation because the application needs to come through the Foundation and not an individual.

8. PRESENTATION – Miller Canfield

Patrick McGow from Miller Canfield appeared before the Board to address any concerns and answer questions about potential road bonds or notes. Mr. McGow explained he has worked with the Road Commission in the past for both road bonds and road notes as financing options for road improvements.

Mr. McGow explained there are two main types: Road Bonds are issued by the County which pledge Act 51 funds and are issued for up to 15 years. Road Notes are issued by the MCRC payable with Act 51 funds and cannot be issued for longer than 10 years. Both types require action to be taken by the MCRC Board and County Board. Due to the anticipated increase in Act 51 revenues, there seems to be an increased interest from municipalities for bonding.

Commissioner Londo inquired about the balances on the current outstanding bonds and notes for the MCRC. He was concerned about the amount of money that would be freed up to apply to a new debt. Mr. McGow indicated the last time the MCRC asked the County to issue a bond was in 2005 and that will be paid off later this year. He also estimated the 2008 has one maturity left for \$290K; the 2011 has a balance of \$300K and will be paid off in 2020; and the 2012 has a \$450K balance to be paid in 2022. Mr. Masserant also added that some of the revenues are coming in from the townships for some of those bonds/notes.

Commissioner Stewart inquired about the process and time line as money needed to be used quickly. Mr. McGow explained the process in either case would involve a couple of meetings by both the MCRC and the County, but normally the time frame is approximately 60-90 days. A resolution from the MCRC requesting the bonds and/or notes with a maximum amount and list of projects. That then goes to the County Board for their approval. If the MCRC asks for a bond, the County would adopt a Bond Resolution; if the MCRC seeks a road note, then it would come back to the Road Commission for a resolution. It takes about 30-60 days to put together the finance documents and offerings, getting the ratings before taking it to sale. Once the sale is done the proceeds would be released to the MCRC. If the Board elects to seek a bond/note, a Resolution could be ready for the next board meeting to start the process.

Commissioner Londo asked if the staff had projects ready. Mr. Pierce indicated the staff is working on a list that will be discussed at the workshop, but he would like to estimate projects to be included in the HMA bid to get a better rates based on more tonnage. He explained that the bond could replenish the money used from the general fund. Mr. McGow stated that was applicable. Mr. Masserant indicated with the proper documentation the MCRC can reimburse for expenses spent prior to a bond issuance for projects listed on the Resolution.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he talked with the staff and previewed some options and ideas which would be discussed at an upcoming workshop.

Commissioner Londo inquired about a redemption clause and whether it would be more advantageous to go for a 10 year or 15 year bond/note. Mr. McGow indicated a redemption clause isn't always attractive to a buyer and language would need to be built into the financing structure up front; and the length would depend on the organizations cash flow.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated they would be looking at an 8-year bond/note to get a better rate. There is also the possibility of a second issuance as there is a lot of potential projects.

Mr. McGow was asked about the detail required in the Resolution that outlines the projects and could projects be added if money is available or would "eligible" or "on the bubble" projects need to be defined. Mr. McGow explained the statute requires a description of the project from segment to segment. A comprehensive list outlining the money to be spent on what roads is good idea. The expectation is the money will be spent within three years of the issuance. Mr. McGow also explained you are not allowed to issue bonds longer than the expected life of the road improvements.

Mr. Assenmacher inquired if costs could include construction costs, engineering, design, inspection, MCRC labor, benefits, etc. Mr. McGow indicated yes, as long as the proper documentation was available for tracking and justifying the expenditures for the audit.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if a better rate would be obtained by utilizing the County's rating and what fees would be involved. Mr. McGow explained the percentage is pretty small between the County's AA rating and the Road Commission's AA minus rating. There are no differences in the fees from a bond versus a note – still use bond attorney, financial advisor, need S&P rating, cost of sale of documents and publications, etc. It all depends on the size of the issuance.

The Board thanked Mr. McGow for the information and taking the time to explain the difference between road bonds and road notes.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- February 27, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 107 Vendor Checks #69785-69832	\$ 110,878.99
Bank Fees – January 2017	\$ 60.00
No. 120 Payroll Checks #63383-63393 & Advise 20855-20941	\$ 229,868.91
Bank Service Charge - February 2017	\$ 90.75
No. 121 Vendor Checks #69833-69883	\$ 217,642.16

3) Township Contracts

Dundee Township

Dennison	M50 to Day	Resurfacing/Shoulders
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LaSalle Township

Albain	Goutz to 1830' W of twp line	Single chip seal
Albain	Strasburg to 1830" W of Goutz	Single chip seal
LaPlaisance	4100' S of Mortar Creek to RR tracks	Mill & Fill
Rauch	US 24 to M125	HMA Leveling/Surface
Yargerville	Gayville to Minx	Mill & Fill

Summerfield Township

Teal	Summerfield to City Limits	HMA Leveling/Surface
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- 4) Award bid for Asphalt Emulsions to all responding vendors.
- 5) Award bid for HMA Mixtures to all three responding vendors: Ajax Materials, Cadillac Asphalt and Gerken Materials.
- 6) Award bid for Mineral Well Brine to Michigan Chloride Sales.
- 7) Award bid for Uniform Traffic Control Devices to all responding vendors.
- 8) Approve the Release of Easement for George Gregoire, Erie Township, Monroe County, Michigan and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.
- 9) Approve one-year extension of the guardrail spraying contract with The Daltons, Inc. for the 2017 season.
- 10) Approve the 2016 Urban Area Certification and 2017 County Wide Certification and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.
- 11) Approve the Agreement with Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores for the update/upgrade to the traffic signal at the intersection of Nadeau Road, Wolverine Drive and their main driveway in Frenchtown Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan; and authorize the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the March 13, 2017 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

10. Unfinished Business – None.

11. New Business –

1) Appointment to the County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to appoint Paul Iacoangeli as MCRC Board representative to the County Parks and Recreation Commission. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

2) Workshop will be scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the MCRC Board Room to discuss 2017-2018 projects and funding.

12. 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 indicated he should have an update on the audit by 3/31. He is working on a separate engagement letter with the State on the performance audit. The performance audit will be conducted March 20-21. The audit presentation should be the second meeting in April and Scot Hoskins will be attending that meeting.

Mr. Masserant explained he is reviewing the six proposals that came in for the OPEB consultants. After reviewing he would provide the information to the Board.

Commissioner Londo indicated he was not interested in reviewing all six proposals but was interested in the process used the different agencies. Mr. Masserant explained he just received the information before the meeting and he would need to look through the information provided to him.

Commissioner Londo explained he would like to see some way to consolidate all the health care under one umbrella like the county pension program to save money and get a better bang for the buck and improved investment returns.

*Keith C. Richard* (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard explained all the townships are returning their contracts and there seems to be an above average number. He applauded two of his staff members – Shawn Satterfield and Dave Leach – for all the work they did in meeting with the all the townships and generating the contracts. He also gave kudos to the townships for working to get their contracts back in a timely manner.

*Scott Assenmacher* (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher indicated the staff was able to generate pie charts and 2017 project maps and Federal Aid information for the Bedford Trade Fair. For early March, the maps are fairly robust. The information on the infographic was updated as well.

*Philip Costello* (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello indicated he was still continuing negotiations with homeowners on mailbox issue violations. He is also in discussion with the attorney for the contractor which the MCRC wants a haul route agreement with but still working on language.

13. Public Comment -

Bill Saul, 4080 E. Stein Road, LaSalle, stated that Monroe County will celebrate 200 years in 2017. Monroe County is the first to separate from the territory per the Proclamation dated July 14, 1817. This is an important designation for Monroe County and a statue is being constructed of President James Monroe, for whom Monroe is named after and will be placed at the County Courthouse. The dedication is scheduled for July 14, 2017 and an invitation has been sent to the Governor to attend that unveiling and dedication ceremony. Banners are being developed with President Monroe's picture that will be for sale to cities, villages and townships to display commemorating Monroe County's Bicentennial. Flags will be hanging in Downtown Monroe on the current flag masts.

The County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution last August recognizing the Monroe County Bi-Centennial Alliance as the operating representative for the County Bi-Centennial, but they didn't vote for fund raising. Mr. Saul and Mr. Davis are members of the Monroe County 200 Legacy Project Committee that is trying to generate support to promote the County's Bi-Centennial.

Mr. Saul explained that MCCC, County of Monroe and the City of Monroe will be helping with marketing and planning of special programs for Monroe County's Bi-Centennial. He was requesting assistance from the Monroe County Road Commission to make and install signs in locations in the townships that are entry points for the state. He stated he appreciated the support from the Road Commissioners on the Michigan's First Road program and felt the Bi-Centennial was just as important.

Commissioner Londo stated he would like to have the staff generate an estimate but they would need to know how many signs and what type of time would be involved. He encouraged Mr. Saul to schedule an appointment with Mr. Pierce to discuss options and to see if this type of work was allowable under Act 51.

14. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Pace* was excused.

*Commissioner Stewart* agreed with Mr. Richard that Shawn Satterfield and Dave Leach do a great job. He estimated Bedford Township would be sending in their contracts to the MCRC in the near future for 2017 projects. He commended the staff for a good job putting together the information for the Bedford Trade Fair and felt the people appreciated the information. He received a lot of positive feedback from those who visited the booth.

Commissioner Stewart stated that the booth won the overall first place ribbon at the Trade Fair. He had very few service requests that he would talk about with Mr. Pierce.

Commissioner Stewart mentioned he would be traveling to Lansing on Tuesday for the CRA of Michigan New Commissioner workshop.

*Commissioner Londo* was upset at the last meeting that an employee would chastise the staff without following proper procedures to report issues. He did not want to see a repeat of that ever again. If there are ongoing safety issues with the union, the Board may want to appoint a liaison to attend the safety meetings and report back to the entire board. What happened at the last meeting was totally uncalled for.

Commissioner Iacoangeli explained that he didn't know what the union president was going to say when he stepped to the podium, however, under public comment time anyone has the right to make comments. It has been the Board's policy not to respond to comments made by the public, and the staff has respected that policy and often had to bite their tongue. He learned after the meeting that the union had approached management about the issues on Thursday and was told follow up would be on Monday. The staff was not allotted the opportunity to provide feedback to the union prior to the meeting. The union has the right to address the Board under public comment time even though they tend to jump the gun on some issues, but they can't be prevented from commenting. Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated when he was a union officer he never once approached the City Council with these types of issues because there is a process in place.

Commissioner Londo indicated in his opinion he wouldn't have classified what was said as a public comment, it was a union issue that should have been taken to management per their union contract. The concerns he made under public comment time should have been discussed with the management for due process.

Commissioner Iacoangeli explained the Safety Committee meets monthly and these issues should have been discussed there. Mr. Pierce added that the Safety Committee is scheduled to meet on a monthly basis, but there are times when meetings have been cancelled or rescheduled due to the union's availability. Mr. Pierce explained that safety is important and all the things that were mentioned have been cleaned up and moved. From this point forward, everyone will be held responsible for implementing safety in their work zone. A much stronger approach will be administered to those who ignore safety concerns. Some of the issues brought up were a surprise but they have all been taken care of. He explained that inspections and certifications are conducted on an annual basis and the MCRC recently spent approximately \$15,000 for updated safety equipment.

*Commissioner Minton* reminded everyone that citizens have a right to speak during public comment time whether the Board agrees with the comments or not.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* stated that comments made during public comment time are not usually items to banter over. The staff doesn't get the opportunity to set the record straight and with only one-sided comments it often reflects poorly in the minutes. The bargaining units do have other avenues outlined in their contract to address some of these concerns, so they don't always need to attend a board meeting and complain to the Board.

Commissioner Iacoangeli congratulated everyone who worked on the Bedford Trade Fair and for the first place ribbon for the display. He received many good comments and only a handful of concerns.

15. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

*Cheryl A. U'Ran*

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Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk