

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
April 9, 2018**

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, April 9, 2018 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 April 9, 2018 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment -

Dan Thomas, LaSalle Township resident, thanked the Road Commission for fixing the drainage problem on Lake Street in Bolles Harbor. A culvert under Lake Street that drained a 4 square block area under Lake Street had repeated problems, and last year the Road Commission came out and cleaned the ditch which helped. This year the same problem occurred again, but through a joint effort it has now been corrected. He was impressed with the partnership between the Road Commission and the Drain Commission in resolving this problem.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- March 26, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. Vendor Checks #71975-72015	\$ 174,895.70
No. Payroll Checks #63857-63872 & Advice #23415-23503	\$ 249,725.99
Bank Service Charge - March 2018	\$ 90.90

3) Township Contracts

Berlin Charter Township

Lillian Sub	Off Dixie Hwy	Mill & Fill
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Frenchtown Charter Township

Vivian	500'S of Hurd to 100' N of Hurd	Drainage improvements
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4) Award the contract for the 2018 HMA Paving Program to the low bidder Gerken Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$4,892,431.00 and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

5) Approve the 1-year extension of the Liquid Calcium Chloride contract with Bay Dust Control Division for the 2018 season.

6) Award bid for 2018 High-Cube Van Body to Truck & Trailer Specialties in the amount of \$20,581.00; and award bid for 2018 GMC Savana special 4500 Cutaway Chassis to Todd Wenzel Buick/Westland in the amount of \$27,165.05 through MIDeal Program.

Commissioner Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the April 9, 2018 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business – None.

9. New Business -

10. Report of Officers -

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce updated the Board on the progress on the north end salt facility. The culvert has been installed, trees have been cleared and crews will be installing 80 foot of tile and hope to go out for bid for the building next month. We are looking to use the millings from the Carleton Rockwood project as base for the north end facility.

Mr. Pierce explained that the 2018 stone lift projects started this week, completing about 3 miles so far. The audit presentation is scheduled for the next board meeting on April 23rd and Mr. Masserant is working on a budget amendment and the final salt report within the next couple board meetings.

Frank Westenkirchner (Assistant County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Westenkirchner had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Pace asked about the frost laws. Mr. Westenkirchner stated the frost laws were removed Monday, April 2nd at 6:00 a.m.

Commissioner Pace indicated I-75 is not good and asked if there were plans for work on state highways. Mr. Pierce explained the MCRC would be done some slab work on US 23 for MDOT, and work is scheduled on I-75 in 2019.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello advised the Board that the Plat Amendment for Park Place in Frenchtown Charter Township was finalized. He also indicated he had been working on a concern about State Line Road where it meanders in Michigan with regards to jurisdictional concerns. We may need to add some certified roads to the list.

11. Public Comment -

Paul Thoma, 7596 S. Stony Creek Road, addressed the Board regarding tree trimming. He indicated he talked with Road Commission Engineering Assistant, Ross Brown, about the historical and aesthetical importance of trimming older trees and not removing them. Mr. Thoma indicated he was also on the Frenchtown Planning Commission and as part of their Master Plan passed a policy last year to identify larger, old-growth trees in the township and do what is necessary to protect them as part of the historical and aesthetical landscape in the community. Since the county doesn't have any hills and valleys, the older tree lines are a primary part of our county landscape and should be preserved due to their historical value.

Mr. Thoma stated that most of the trees marked for removal between Corkins and US-24 make perfect sense as they are standing dead ash trees, scrub brush or hardwoods that make sense as far as cleaning ditch lines and widening the right-of-way. There are three (3) that he would like to address that seem significant due to their age and location. One is located at the corner of S. Stony Creek and Steiner Roads is at least 100 years old and is on the property of Larry Johnson. Mr. Johnson and his neighbors are concerned that there is a bat population in this tree, and they want the tree preserved. It is a significant size oak tree and is close to the edge of the right-of-way based on the road centerline. He believes it could be a witness tree, used to mark off sections in the township.

Mr. Thoma indicated his home is designated as a Centennial Farm, and set aside with a conservation easement with DNR and Michigan Conservatory to preserve the landscape.

Preserving the character of the neighborhood and landscape of his farm as significant to the heritage of the community. He understood removal of these trees are still up for discussion with the Road Commission. He urged the Road Commission to consider trimming these trees without being removed, as they are older, larger black walnut trees at least 120 years old. He indicated these three (3) marked trees are located on the straightway of Stony Creek Road, and may be closer to the center line of the road than Mr. Brown would like, but they have never been hit by vehicles since the road was paved. These trees do not present a threat to the motoring public.

Mr. Thoma stated he understood the MCRC has standard operating procedure for tree trimming and removal, and he requested a copy of that SOP. He would like to make an argument that preserving the historical heritage of the neighborhood would warrant some leniency from the Road Commission standard procedures. He indicated he spoke with other neighbors and there are concerns about other various trees within the section as well, about a half dozen or so.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace asked guessed the current road width to be about 20 foot, and asked if all the trees marked for removal were located within the 66 foot road right-of-way.

Mr. Westenkirchner indicated that was correct. The plan would be to have 12 foot lanes, pave one foot of the shoulder and stone the remainder of the shoulder. The standard for that class and speed of road requires trees to be 14-16 foot of the edge of pavement and most of these trees are 11 feet off the pavement.

Mr. Westenkirchner explained that Ross Brown is working on the tree program, and started marking trees for trimming and removal county-wide and for the Stony Creek Road project. It has been the procedure of the MCRC to send notices to the homeowners affected to see if they want the wood.

Commissioner Pace indicated he wasn't in the habit of making exceptions, because safety always comes first. When improvements are done to a road it usually increases the traffic and the speed, so the MCRC has to make the safety of the motoring public the first priority. Commissioner Pace felt the Engineering Department would be reasonable in their assessment and in working with Mr. Thoma, but again safety is the priority.

Commissioner Stewart confirmed that the pictures provided to the Board were of the three (3) trees that Mr. Thoma was asking not to have cut down. Mr. Pierce indicated that was correct.

Commissioner Londo wanted to again clarify that all the trees marked fall within the road right-of-way. Mr. Westenkirchner indicated it is a meandering road and the right-of-way is 33 feet from the centerline of pavement, and all these trees fall within the right-of-way.

Commissioner Minton indicated all his questions had been answered.

Commissioner Iacoangeli had nothing additional to report.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk