

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
June 12, 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, June 12, 2017 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>
Stephen J. Pace	
Greg W. Stewart	
Dan Minton	
Charles A. Londo	
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 Prayer.
5. Commissioner Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the June 12, 2017 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
6. Public Hearing – Guidelines for Platted and Unplatted Development
Commissioner Iacoangeli opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

With no comments from the public or the MCRC Board, the public hearing was closed at 5:36 p.m.
7. Public Comment – None.
8. The following items were listed on the Consent Agenda: *(with immediate effect)*
 - 1) Approval of Minutes- May 22, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - 2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 307 Vendor Checks #70297-70351	\$ 203,802.01
No. 316 Payroll Checks #63477-63487 & Advice 321389-21487	\$ 249,522.74
No. 338 Vendor Checks #70352-70427	\$ 438,488.89
 - 3) Township Contracts

<u>Dundee Township</u>		
N. County Line	M50 to Brewer	HMA
wedging/surface/shoulders		
<u>Exeter Township</u>		
2017 Local Road Mowing		
<u>Summerfield Township</u>		
Dixon	Ida West to 900 Ft North	HMA Paving
Petersburg	City limits to Dundee twp line	Zone Patch
 - 4) Award Full Construction Engineering Services Contract for the Dennison-Eastwood-Ostrander Federal Aid construction projects to Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. in the amount of \$148,590 and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the June 12, 2017 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

9. Unfinished Business -

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked to add the discussion on the Wells/Dixon Road Intersection that was discussed at the last board meeting.

Mr. Pierce stated that based on the comments made at the last board meeting, a test could be done to install rumble strips at this intersection to monitor the impact. If directed by the Board, he would contact the 3rd party who was interested in participating in the cost of the rumble strips. He warned the Board that this type of test could open doors for other citizens or political officials to request this be done at other intersections, which could get quite costly. He also mentioned the use of solar stop signs if the townships would be willing to pay for the added expense.

Commissioner Londo felt it was important to at least attempt to find a solution to reduce future tragedies. He referenced information highlighted in the Managing Director communication stating a study shows compelling evidence in the reduction in crash harm with the installation of rumble strips. He would endorse the installation of rumble strips at this intersection as a test. He also stated that he realized it won't reduce driver error or the hazards in the area, but it might increase attention. He also suggested installing additional signage stating dangerous intersection ahead.

Commissioner Pace asked if these would be two separate sets of rumble strips similar to what is used on I-75. Mr. Pierce indicated that was correct and it would allow the Road Commission to monitor complaints related to the increased noise generated by these strips.

Commissioner Pace wanted it fully noted that this is only a test and maybe not be the permanent fix for this intersection. Since it is a relatively inexpensive test, he felt the MCRC should bear the cost.

Mr. Assenmacher explained that actual pavement marking material would be used and put down in layers according to a formula. It would provide an opportunity to see how it wears.

Commissioner Stewart agreed that the Road Commission should pay for the test if it is the right fix for the problem. Maybe the 3rd party should be advised to talk to the residents on the NE corner to trim the shrubbery in the intersection or maybe contact the utilities to relocate poles. He stated he wasn't in complete agreement with the installation of the rumble strips, and preferred the use of the solar stop signs better. He felt blinking lights got more attention than the rumble strips, and it was a more permanent remedy.

Commissioner Stewart didn't have a problem with using the rumble strips only as a test, but would like to see criteria put in place for determining when to use solar based signs. He stated the rumble strips weren't really about safety. He felt the Road Commission should develop a policy with specific criteria for these issues and not just reacting to complaints.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked how the transverse rumble strips were laid out, and if they could be noisy. Mr. Assenmacher explained there are two sets laid out in a pattern using raised pavement marking materials, and yes it could create noise when vehicles go over them.

Mr. Assenmacher indicated that the Road Commission looks into situations for correctable problems, much like this one and provides follow up action when warranted such as reflective strips, additional signs, etc. in the uniform traffic manual.

But he reminded the Board that it has to be deemed as correctable actions not just reactive based on sympathy for recent tragedies. He would hate to set a precedent without having the correct criteria in place. All intersections have accidents due to human error and human error is not correctable. The MCRC needs to be clear of the intent when making these decisions.

Commissioner Londo stated he totally agreed. He also indicated installing rumble strips may not totally solve the problem and it won't stop people from drinking and drinking or texting while driving but it may get someone's attention to avoid an accident. He also agreed that the MCRC needed to develop a policy to outline criteria as a point of order.

Mr. Costello advised the Board to allow the Managing Director to take the proper steps that he felt was needed in this situation and didn't feel the Board needed to take formal action since this is only a test.

Commissioner Pace agreed that the Board shouldn't make the decision but wanted this clearly stated that this was merely a test and not a permanent solution.

9. New Business -

1. Approve the Guidelines for Platted and Unplatted Development.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the Guidelines for Platted and Unplatted Development as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

2. Discussion on requests from Mannik & Smith.

Mr. Pierce explained that Bedford Township Engineers, Mannik & Smith, have been working on SAD projects and a need has been identified for improved drainage on two primary roads in connection with two SAD projects.

Barry Buschmann, Mannik & Smith, explained that Indian Acres Subdivision is putting approximately \$1 million into improvements on their roads and internal drainage, but there is an issue with the existing drain outlet from the plat to the county drain located on Sterns Road, which is under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission. This is unique because it is a two-tier system. The old storm system has failed and water collects at the curve and water often covers the road surface. The MCRC has tried numerous time to clean the line without any success. While doing the SAD to improve their roads, the engineers have suggested they improve the drainage within the subdivision and put the drain tiles down the middle of the road to the Sterns Road outlet. The Sterns Road outlet and cross tile would need to be upgraded to the county drain for better road drainage.

Commissioner Pace indicated this would benefit not only the subdivision but the Road Commission as well due to improved drainage. Mr. Bouws, Mannik & Smith engineer, felt this was the only way to go because there is no other way to get water out of the area and it poses a hazard to drivers.

Mr. Pierce explained that Bedford Township was looking for a \$100,000 contribution on this project for improved drainage that benefits Sterns Road, which is a primary road. The MCRC would prepare a contract with Bedford Township for this project.

Mr. Assenmacher indicated this wasn't an unusual process and indicated it serves a dual benefit as it reduced the amount of routine maintenance on local roads. He also indicated the Board should proceed with caution due to the cost sharing policy outlining contributions on local roads. Approximately \$22k of the amount will be spent on a primary road, that being Sterns Road, while the remaining balance will be spent to improve the drainage on a local road system.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he could support funds used to upgrade the primary road portion was concerned about the amount used on the local road system. He was afraid it would set a precedent. He asked how much the township was contributing to the project.

Paul Francis, Bedford township board members, indicated SAD's are paid by the residents who benefit from the work being done and the township doesn't contribute.

Commissioner Stewart explained he is well aware of the drainage issues and felt the Road Commission has a legacy responsibility as this subdivision drains into the Sterns Road outlet which is a primary road. There is a huge benefit to repairing this system because there is always water over the road when it rains which is a liability issue. Commissioner Stewart felt there was a credible reason to address this issue while road work is being done to avoid additional costs and inconveniences.

Commissioner Pace agreed there was an issue, but the township allows homeowners to build houses and other structures over the drainage system which destroys tiles and creates the problems.

Mr. Buschmann explained this is a unique situation as the drainage is not part of the internal subdivision improvements that falls within the SAD, but it provides relief to the existing drainage issues plaguing the subdivision. There needs to be a totally new outlet installed as the old system is not repairable. It is cost efficient to install the new drainage tile while the road is dug up.

Commissioner Pace understood the concern and agreed with the logic but what does the Road Commission tell other townships with local road bridge closures. There is a lot of issues in Bedford Township as a result of poor planning between the township and contractors putting in subdivisions and it isn't all the responsibility of the Road Commission to fix. Since only a portion the \$100K directly benefits the primary road drainage, he would like the staff to review options and provide the Board with additional information for review, and not vote on this until the next meeting.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated that this item will be put on the 6/26 agenda for further discussion. The staff can do more research on the Board's concerns.

Commissioner Stewart that the two requests be split into two projects. The drainage on Smith Road is a 100% primary drainage issue and can be addressed tonight.

Mr. Buschmann agreed that the existing issue on Smith Road is a direct improvement to a primary road.

Commissioner Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the request from Mannik & Smith on the behalf of Bedford Township for the drainage improvements to the Smith Road/Sandywell Drive, not to exceed \$22,600. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

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 indicated the asphalt distributor arrived and the tandem trucks will be coming in and then they will be sent to be outfitted.

Keith C. Richard (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard updated the Board on the maintenance projects. Approximately 120 miles of chip seals are scheduled to be completed in 2017 and to date about 40 percent, or 46 miles, has been finished. The chip seal program is going smooth. Mr. Richard indicated with all the different programs going on this summer, it has created some staffing issues.

Mr. Richard indicated the paving program is moving forward and David Leach is overseeing that program which appears to be successful with the exceptions of a few failure associated with the heat.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher indicated he provided updated information in the Managing Director communication and he would be happy to address questions. He explained the staff would be meeting to begin discussions on the infographic for this year’s Monroe County fair booth.

Commissioner Stewart inquired if there was any follow up information generated from the workshop on the antennas. Mr. Assenmacher indicated he has good feedback and received a few phone calls.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello has nothing additional to report.

11. Public Comment -

Phil Heath, Milan Township Supervisor, stated that David Leach and Ross Brown are doing a great job overseeing the paving work in Monroe County.

Mr. Heath agreed with County Highway Engineer, Scott F. Assenmacher, that flashing lights may not get the attention of a driver who has a face in the cell phone. The rumble strips seem to work and grab someone’s attention. He indicated the rumble strips on Clinton Macon Road has been very effective in reducing accidents.

Mr. Heath also stated it should be the developer who should be responsible for drainage issues when subdivisions are designed, not the responsibility of the Road Commission to fix when it was done incorrectly.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace indicated there is a possibility of extending the paving contract into the future and he has staff looking into that option.

Commissioner Stewart agreed that rumble strips are probably more memorable but he wants a solution to be feasible. He would like to find the right solution and not just be reactive. With regard to the Sterns Road drainage, it is more than 50 years old and it will benefit the county road drainage on Sterns Road to have this subdivision drainage problems corrected while the residents are paying to improve their roads.

Commissioner Londo indicated he was encouraged with the progress on the chip seal program and the staff coming up with workable solutions to the Wells/Dixon Road intersection concerns. He appreciated the extra work.

Commissioner Minton had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he received an email from a citizen thanking the Road Commission for taking care of a problem. Commissioner Iacoangeli asked the staff to pass along the thank you to the maintenance workers.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk