

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
July 25, 2016**

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, July 25, 2016 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

PRESENT	EXCUSED
Stephen J. Pace	Dan Minton
Bruce R. Stammer, Jr.	
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 Stammer moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the July 25, 2016 regular meeting agenda as amended. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment -

Peggy Taylor-Albaugh, 444 N. County Line Road, Britton, stated she was checking in on status of North County Line Road. She also indicated she has talked with several residents on the northern portion in Milan Township and they are upset that their road is being turned back to gravel.

7. Consent Agenda -

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

1) Approval of Minutes- July 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 424 Payroll Checks #63143-63157 & Advice #19338-19438	\$ 242,665.54
Bank Service Charge-June 2016	\$ 176.40
No. 425 Vendor Checks #68636-68658	\$ 72,857.57
No. 446 Vendor Checks #68659-68707	\$ 977,689.03

3) Township Contracts -

Milan Township

N. County Line Road	Day to Cone	Pulverize, stone, mineral brine
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4) Award bid for Chapel Creek Special Assessment District, Bedford Township to low bidder, Cadillac Asphalt, LLC in the amount of \$115,809.70; and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

5) Approve the Resolution to remove the reduce weight limits effective immediately and signs for the following roads:

Colf Road between Martinsville Road and Carleton West Road - Remove 20 ton posting  
 Doty Road between Scofield Road and S. Stony Creek Road - Remove 20 ton posting  
 Fay Road between Martinsville Road and Carleton West Road - Remove 25 ton posting  
 Palmer Road between Stone Road and Hoffman Road - Remove 25 ton posting

- 6) Award bid for Asphalt Rejuvenating Surface Treatment contract to Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLD in the amount of \$49,104.50 and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.
- 7) Authorize the Managing Director to enter into a contract with TTL Associates, Inc. (TTL) for the Inspection and testing service on the Ida West Road project.

Commissioner Stammer moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the July 25, 2016 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business -

Commissioner Pace inquired about the mowing contract stating he was led to believe that our crews are cleaning up after the contractor. Mr. Pierce indicated he hadn't heard that but would follow up.

Commissioner Pace also voiced a concern about issues related to the gradall. Mr. Pierce indicated a complaint has been filed and there are some issues with the gradall operation. Commissioner Pace asked if this issue should be discussed in closed session. Mr. Pierce didn't believe this issue could be discussed in closed session.

Commissioner Pace stated he heard that someone on staff was telling the guys we were going to contract the gradall work out. Mr. Pierce explained some work has been contracted out but the main problem is no one signed the heavy equipment list and the union wants the management to force younger guys to run these machines, and hire young guys to do shoveling. There is no need to have 100 people on the payroll to do the work of 50 employees. Mr. Pierce explained that a local contractor has provided an estimate to dig 1500 feet of ditch line for less than \$5.00 per foot in one day with no added charges – they provide their own trucking and own flaggers. This particular project has been on the "to do" list for over 3 years. The Road Commission cannot afford to purchase a \$350,000 machine to have it set in the yard. The employee in question has been asked to run the gradall five times this year. According to the union contract, someone who has signed the volunteer list cannot be pulled off a piece of equipment to run another piece of equipment. One employee had previously signed up to be the gradall alternate, but has removed himself from that list and signed the volunteer list for the 9-tire roller. He stated if the union wants to file a grievance on this issue, he is willing to go to arbitration to have this issue settled.

Commissioner Pace agreed that the employees need to work and the machines need to be run. He asked Mr. Pierce to follow up on the mowing to ensure the contractor is doing what was bid.

1) Request from Southpointe Subdivision HOA.

Darrick Whittaker, Southpointe HOA, indicated he spoke with Scott F. Assenmacher about the recommendation to deny the request for additional stop signs, but he was asking the Board to reconsider. The HOA would be willing to pay for the signs and the installation as they disagree that the signs won't help with controlling speed.

Commissioner Londo stated he read the staff report and the homeowner's concerns outlined in the written recommendation. The Uniform Traffic Control Manual doesn't allow the installation of stop signs for speed control.

Mr. Whittaker understood what the manual stated and that stop signs are to regulate traffic at intersections, but he felt the signs would help regulate speed as well. They understand that there are plans for a future left turn lane at the intersection of Telegraph and Dunbar which will also help to reduce the number of vehicles cutting through the subdivision to avoid the light. The HOA is asking for 3 additional signs out of the 12 intersections because Southpointe is a circular drive.

Commissioner Londo again reminded Mr. Whittaker that the manual actually states “shall not be used for speed control.” Mr. Whittaker again disagreed and felt it would help with controlling the traffic that comes through that area and indicated it would help with safety issues for children.

Commissioner Londo asked if they had called the police for enforcement. He also stated he would have a hard time overruling the staff without some type of demonstration of other issues. Mr. Whittaker indicated there are several law enforcement officials that reside with the subdivision. Young children playing near the road don’t always look before going into the road, and often people walk their dogs in the roadway. Even though they are asking for additional signs primarily for speed control, they felt it would also promote a safer subdivision.

Commissioner Pace also indicated he would have difficulty going against staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Iacoangeli inquired if the HOA had pursued other measures such as speed bumps, or possibly additional speed limit signs. Mr. Whittaker didn’t think speed bumps would be effective, but maybe additional speed limit signs would help.

Mr. Assenmacher indicated additional signs are not unheard of and could be strategically placed within the subdivision. That request could be considered.

Commissioner Stammer indicated in Pennsylvania they have posted signs stating a full stop is free; a rolling stop costs this amount of money.

Commissioner Pace moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to deny the request from the Southpointe Subdivision Homeowners Association for additional stop signs.

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

Ken Wonsowski, Rutherford, indicated they were asking for two additional signs at corner because children have almost been run over by speeders within the subdivision. In his opinion, the stop signs are vital especially since students use their subdivision as a short cut and they disregard anything and anyone in the intersections.

9. New Business -

1) 2016 First Budget Amendment.

Commissioner Londo asked what some of the major changes are in the amendment. Phil Masserant indicated approved township contracts have been included; departments 302 and 311 and federal aid projects have been updated and he reviewed all the work orders tied to specific projects. He also made sure the department budgets are on track.

Commissioner Londo asked for an explanation in the major increase in federal aid monies. Mr. Masserant explained that there was a delay in the obligational authority from last year plus the Ida West Road project was added. It looks like the Road Commission will end the year with a better fund balance than anticipated.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if changes in the state maintenance contract were due to the mild winter. Mr. Masserant stated the salt was adjusted to actual as the state reimburses for actual usage. He also indicated the state has put a freeze on expenditures and we are staying within the budget.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the 2016 First Budget Amendment as presented. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

10. Report of Officers –

*Randy Pierce* (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce indicated the Board was given a memo regarding the Jackman/Dean Road light installation. The purchase of property from Berlin Charter Township was completed on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and the staff will be moving forward on a plan.

Commissioner Pace asked about the results of North County Line borings. Mr. Pierce explained the results have not come back yet but he will be following up with the contractor.

Commissioner Iacoangeli stated he reviewed the memo on the Jackman/Dean intersection light and acknowledged it was unfortunate but reminded everyone it is an election year.

*Phillip C. Masserant* (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant provided an update on the 13<sup>th</sup> check policy. A full actuarial is not required as it wouldn't cost anything to the pension system. A policy should be ready for the Board's review and approval at the next meeting. He also indicated he has been excused from the next meeting.

*Keith C. Richard* (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard indicated the chip seal program is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> week after experiencing some issues with the equipment. With the stone wet from the recent rain, the crews did not operate today, but overall it is going well. There have been a few complaints on the chip seals regarding dust and loose stone which is getting swept by third day.

Mr. Richard indicated he was the person who the union was talking about and he is the person that made the assignment being questioned. He had to make a decision to either shut the piece of equipment down or get it out on the road so he asked the crew leader to use the equipment, and he agreed. There appears to be a difference of opinion on the contract. He indicated he will continue to work with the union to come up with a good resolution.

*Scott Assenmacher* (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher indicated Ida West Road improvement project would start next week. Assistant County Highway Engineer, Frank Westenkirchner, sent letters to the townships and citizens with the detailed information on the project.

Mr. Assenmacher also reminded the board of the fair next week and thanked Mark Larrow and Cheryl A. U'Rand for the work done on the display board. The Road Commission completed the work on Raisinville Road and received numerous compliments.

Mr. Assenmacher also explained the Eastwood Drive bridge remains closed and the Road Commission is in contact with MDOT looking to fast track funds from the 2018 local bridge program.

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

11. Public Comment -

Chad Randall, 444 Borgess Avenue and Chief Stewart Local #543, indicated Road Commission crews are performing mowing clean up.

Bronco McKart, Vice President Local #543, expounded on the issues surrounding the gradall. Mr. McKart indicated that when all this took place, Mr. Pierce was on vacation when these discussions took place. As a union representative when there are issues with the contract that could be a direct or questionable violation, you set down and discuss the issue in question. He stated he can talk to anyone about anything as he would rather come in peace than war anytime. But when a manager tells me that we are to do something this way or the equipment will be sold, that is unacceptable. I was told to “do what you have to do” about filing a grievance so I discussed the concerns with the union board, called our National and made contact with people Lansing and was told to file an Unfair Labor Practice. The union has moved forward with an Unfair Labor charge against Mr. Richard. In the past, Mr. McKart stated he has called Mr. Pierce to talk and discuss issues after hours and he appreciated it. This situation was handled very wrong and it has left him very disappointed. This Board wanted to bridge the gap between the union and management and repair the disconnect created by prior boards. But he felt we are back to that same gap and management has threatened the loss of jobs more than once. He pointed out that it is a violation to threaten to contract work out when the union doesn't agree with management.

Mr. McKart agreed that no one from the union signed the volunteer list, but after speaking with all the parties came to an agreement that they would force from the bottom of the seniority list and they will be trained. Ed Shinevarre agreed and the meeting ended well.

Mr. McKart explained that Jim Morgan hasn't run the gradall in over 6 years and the alternate signed off the gradall and signed for the roller. In his opinion, Mr. Morgan shouldn't have been put on the gradall. At the same time, Mr. McKart understood that equipment can't set being unused but it should be done in a different manner than being strong armed.

Gary Williams, President Local #543, stated Aaron Pierce signed as the alternate gradall operator in 2009 and was periodically trained but not for the last couple of years. He also added that as the crew leader of the gradall crew, Jim Morgan, has gotten the numbers close to \$5 per foot and has been doing a fabulous job scheduling work for the drainage crew. He stated Mr. Morgan has not been in the gradall since Dan Vandavelde retired in 2009.

Mr. Williams stated he has tried to work with management on an alternate list, and was told the union doesn't run the company. The union tries to work within the confines of the contract.

As a resident of Bedford Township, Mr. Williams indicated that Sterns Road has a pile of dirt west of Colonial Gardens that has growing grass and weeds, and it looks bad. Mr. Pierce explained the contractor/vendor asked to leave the material there as they will return to finish the project and use the material for shoulder work. Bedford Township is aware of the situation.

Mr. Assenmacher added that the project is waiting for the associated culvert work to be completed then they will apply the overlay and button up the area.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Pace* stated he understands management's frustration during the summer scramble to find guys to get work done and he feels for them. He emphasized that there is still work that needs to be done within the framework on the contract. He would like to see all the parties set down and discuss things civilly. He hates to hear that an Unfair Labor Practice charge has been filed. He did agree that training is important and felt 2-3 backups should be trained on the important pieces of equipment for these types of situations. Ron Larrow (now retired) was an artist at the gradall work – he was finicky, talented and precise with that machine. No one ever came close to the job that Ron Larrow could. The gradall is an important piece of equipment for the Road Commission and it needs to be running every single day. It is critical to make sure drainage flows, water isn't backing up in resident's yards and ditches are kept open. Commissioner Pace thanked all the workers for the good job they do.

Commissioner Pace asked Mr. Pierce to keep him posted on the results of the North County Line soil borings. He also asked to have the northend salt facility fast tracked if possible.

*Commissioner Stammer* has nothing additional to report.

*Commissioner Londo* asked if Dundee Township responded to our invitation to attend a meeting. Mr. Pierce indicated they hoped to be here at the next regular board meeting.

*Commissioner Minton* - excused.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* indicated there are still openings to sign up to work at the fair.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Cheryl A. U'Ran*

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Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk