

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
September 11, 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, September 11, 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 Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the September 11, 2017 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Hearing – Proposed 2018 MCRC Budget

Commissioner Iacoangeli opened the public hearing at 5:33 p.m.

Commissioner Pace indicated the projected numbers in the proposed budget were higher than the information sent to him by Rep. Bellino. Mr. Masserant explained he went off the 5-year projection from MDOT on the MTF funds. In 2018 there are no general fund dollars that will be received. The funds have been fluctuating with the new proposal. The MCRC received \$14.6 million in 2017 and he accounted for an additional \$1.3 million for 2018.

Commissioner Pace inquired about township contributions. Mr. Masserant indicated annual meetings with the townships will start in September, so he included placeholders for township and contracted work until better numbers become available. He has good numbers for the Federal Aid projects based on the approved TIP list. He plans to close the month of August to see what projects will carry forward into 2018.

Commissioner Stewart asked about the other revenues line item tagged as security fees. The original budgeted amount was \$12,000, then it went up to \$163,000 for 2017 and now down to \$50,000 in 2018. Mr. Masserant indicated there were several projects in Berlin Township that have yet to go through and the project costs have not been recognized. He will go through in September to apply the costs and expenses and any haul route monies.

Commissioner Stewart also inquired about the projects division. Mr. Masserant again indicated he put place holders in the proposed budget until commitments are obtained from the townships.

With no additional questions or comments, Commissioner Iacoangeli closed the public hearing at 5:40 p.m.

7. RECOGNITION RESOLUTION –

Chairman Iacoangeli read the following Resolution in recognition of Scott F. Assenmacher:

WHEREAS, *Scott F. Assenmacher*, has been employed for 19+ years with the Monroe County Road Commission beginning as an Intern then hired full-time as an Engineer Assistant, moving to Staff Engineer then appointed to County Highway Engineer; and

WHEREAS, during his years of faithful and proficient service he has earned the admiration and respect of his friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, he has been a loyal and devoted employee, and his activities have resulted in the advancement and promotion of the highway industry of Michigan and more in particular of the Monroe County road system,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Monroe County express their appreciation to *Scott F. Assenmacher*, for his many years of dedicated service, and contributions to his profession, and extend their best wishes as he begins a new journey in the private sector.

Mr. Assenmacher thanked everyone for the recognition.

8. Public Comment – None.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 488 Vendor Checks #70772-70856	\$ 1,228,975.60
No. 507 Payroll Checks #22006-22105	\$ 244,978.89
No. 511 Vendor Checks #70857-70895	\$ 192,099.54
No. 524 Vendor Checks #70896-70955	\$ 418,870.36
No. 545 Payroll Checks #63584-63598 & Advice #22106-22191	\$ 219,647.79
Bank Service Charge – August 2017	\$ 93.00

3) Township Contracts

LaSalle Township

Stein Road

West of “C” Street

Replace Cross Tile

4) Approve the agreement with Northwest Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$37,750.00 for design engineering services on the 2018 Federal Aid Resurfacing Projects, and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

5) Reject all bids received on August 22, 2017 for Indian Acres Special Assessment District project.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the September 11, 2017 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

10. Unfinished Business – None.

11. New Business –

1) Discussion on contract extension for 2018 tree removal program with CHOP.

Mr. Assenmacher explained that CHOP was the low bidder, and they went above and beyond the expectations outlined in the contract.

Commissioner Londo mentioned a local contractor had come before the board when the bid originally went to CHOP to voice a concern about the bid being awarded to an out of town contractor, yet the local contractor turned down work when contacted with other opportunities.

Mr. Pierce indicated there was no reason given by the local contractor, other than they didn't have time and it was a busy time of year.

Commissioner Londo wondered if the bids would be more competitive if the tree removal program was put out for bid again. Mr. Assenmacher indicated there was no way of knowing how the bids would come in.

Commissioner Minton indicated that the original contract required the work to be completed before 3/31/2017, but the time frame needed to be adjusted. The local contractor indicated he was interested in the work because of the 3/31 deadline was before his normal season, so he could have been busy when the other opportunities were presented.

Commissioner Stewart would like to see a policy that addresses local companies and contractors verses outside companies, but does not make it mandatory. He would like to keep things honest and open to give local vendors and contractors a fair advantage, unless there is a compelling reason. He understands that CHOP bid significantly lower which is the reason the bid was awarded to the out of town company. He appreciated CHOP did a good job, but didn't hear a compelling reason not to re-bid.

Commissioner Londo stated he was under the impression that the contract allowed for an extension. Mr. Pierce indicated that was correct. Mr. Assenmacher added that the contract allowed for up to a three year extension, but the company is asking for a one year extension with the same unit cost.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the Board could either approve the extension or rebid the tree program. His concern was that all the companies know what was bid which might affect the outcome. To re-bid might result in a 10% higher cost for the program. CHOP did good work for the MCRC and he would lean toward approving the extension for one year.

Commissioner Pace agreed that he is in favor of using local when appropriate, but CHOP low balled the numbers to get the bid and he would be in favor of going out for bid again.

Commissioner Minton agreed with Commissioner Pace about using local when appropriate. He also said the Board talked about creating a policy to address local companies and vendors, and shame on the Board for not following through with it. He has a soft spot for locals, but CHOP low balled their prices to receive the contract. He would like to see the tree removal program be rebid.

Commissioner Iacoangeli explained that when the staff prepares the RFP's that include extension language it allows the opportunity to extend a contract if the work was performed correctly at a good price. Had the RFP's been close this might be different, but they weren't and he was comfortable renewing the contract for one year. The contractor went above and beyond what was expected to prove themselves.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to decline the extension request.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Pace	YES
	Commissioner Stewart	NO
	Commissioner Londo	NO
	Commissioner Minton	YES
	Commissioner Iacoangeli	NO

Motion failed for lack of support.

Commissioner Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the extension request from CHOP.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Londo	YES
	Commissioner Stewart	YES
	Commissioner Pace	NO
	Commissioner Minton	NO
	Commissioner Iacoangeli	YES

Motion carried. Vote: 3 Yes 2 No.

12. Report of Officers –

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce explained this would be Scott F. Assenmacher’s last board meeting. He has enjoyed working with him over the years and will miss him. Mr. Assenmacher has been a great asset to the Road Commission and he wished Scott the best.

Commissioner Pace inquired about Assenmacher’s replacement. Mr. Pierce indicated the job has been posted and until filled, Frank Westenkirchner the Assistant County Highway Engineer will be filling in in compliance with the State.

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant thanked Mr. Assenmacher for his many years of service to the Road Commission. Scott has displayed passion and dedication to the Road Commission over the year, and Mr. Masserant considered him a friend and wished him well.

Keith C. Richard (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard provided an update on the progress of the NE salt facility. They are meeting weekly with the consulting engineer and waiting on approval from Ash Township and DEQ. Once DEQ grants their approval, the box culvert will be replaced along with the cross tiles that will allow access to the western portion of the property. He explained Mike Smith had been assisting in getting the plans ready to go out for bid. He hoped to have a recommendation to the Board at their 10/9 regular meeting for approval, which would allow a November build, and December fill.

Maintenance workers continue moving forward with the berm removal program. David Leach is working with the paving program.

Mr. Richard also thanked Mr. Assenmacher for being a mentor and a friend. He has drawn a great deal of knowledge from Mr. Assenmacher and he will be missed.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher said he appreciated all the comments. He has been talking with Mr. Pierce on the transition and has made good progress with change in duties and technology. A good plan has been put together with the help of the Engineering Department and Phil Masserant.

He reminded the Board that he is available via phone call should anyone have questions during this transition time, and he would miss everyone.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello stated he has greatly enjoyed working with Scott Assenmacher, and is sorry to see him leave.

13. Public Comment -

Bronco McKart, Vice President Local #543, congratulated Mr. Assenmacher on his new job. He then advised the Board about an ongoing concern in the maintenance division that could affect morale and workplace safety. He stated he would try to keep his comments very generic but trusted when the Board learns of the issues, they will deal with the concern immediately and effectively. The union would wait patiently to see how the matter would be resolved.

14. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace wished Mr. Assenmacher luck in his new job. He stated he wished the public sector could pay what the private sector is offering to keep him at the MCRC.

He stated he knows that the employees may not always feel things are fair, but everyone is negotiating in good faith and he acknowledges that everyone needs to be taken care of, but it may not be what workers expect. He also stated he hates to see talented people leave, but there needs to be a balance between workers and roads. Everyone has done a great job over the last few years.

Commissioner Stewart stated Mr. Assenmacher has frustrated him many times over the years they have worked together but he holds great respect because Scott always did the right thing. As a Road Commissioner, he always appreciated his input and opinions. He wished Mr. Assenmacher good luck and credited him with helping the Road Commission move forward.

Commissioner Londo echoed the sentiments of the others and wished Mr. Assenmacher well.

Commissioner Londo inquired about the RFP's for the health care consultants. Commissioner Minton explained that he and Mr. Pierce said in on the interviews for the three consultants. The interviews went very well and good questions were asked. The MCRC VEBA Board held a special meeting and decided to change consultants to ANDCO.

Commissioner Minton stated Mr. Assenmacher was always very professional and in a good mood and it is a big loss for the Road Commission. He added that Mr. Assenmacher always went above and beyond, had a lot of historical knowledge, and he brought a lot to the organization as a whole. He is leaving big shoes to be filled. He wished best of luck to him and his family.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated Mr. Assenmacher will be missed. He appreciated all the time Mr. Assenmacher took the time to explain things when he first became a Road Commissioner. He stated Mr. Assenmacher brought new perspective to difficult issues, and always practiced patience. Commissioner Iacoangeli wished him the best.

15. Closed Session

Chairman Iacoangeli moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to enter into closed session at 6:15p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations relative to collective bargaining.

Chairman, Paul Iacoangeli	YES	
Commissioner, Dan Minton	YES	
Commissioner, Charles Londo	YES	
Commissioner, Stephen J. Pace	YES	
Commissioner, Greg W. Stewart	YES	Motion carried.

Reconvene -

The Board of County Road Commissioners reconvened the September 11, 2017 meeting at 7:18 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Chairman, Paul Iacoangeli	YES
Commissioner, Dan Minton	YES
Commissioner, Charles Londo	YES
Commissioner, Stephen J. Pace	YES
Commissioner, Greg W. Stewart	YES

16. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk