

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
September 24, 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, September 24, 2018 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

**PRESENT**

Greg W. Stewart  
Charles A. Londo  
Dan Minton  
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 Stewart moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the September 24, 2018 regular meeting agenda as amended. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment - None.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 633 Vendor Checks #72883-72941	\$ 622,579.66
No. 647 Payroll Checks #64101-64121 & Advice #24591-24685	\$ 283,290.88
Cafeteria Plan Pmts - 3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr Checks #64122-64136	\$ 13,240.95
No. 648 Vendor Checks #72942-72929	\$ 769,896.50

3) Township Contracts - N/A

4) Approve and sign the License Agreement Eric Leggett, 19876 Todd Road, Petersburg, Michigan to install and maintain private drainage under Todd Road, in accordance with requirements stated in Permit #2018-000317 issued by the MCRC.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the September 24, 2018 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business -

1) Approve 2019 MCRC Proposed Budget.

Commissioner Londo inquired if the staff was able to obtain information on the additional funding that was mentioned at the budget public hearing.

Ms. Hawkins-Freelain indicated that the information was in the Managing Director communication.

Commissioner Stewart added that the article was in the communication outlining that the Governor would like to see the money go to roads, but it will more than likely be applied to schools, etc. It has not been appropriated yet, so it is still a long journey.

Commissioner Iacoangeli agree that the debate is far from over, because the local school system may challenge it if the money goes to the road system.

Commissioner Londo moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the 2019 MCRC Budget as proposed. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

2) Continued discussion on the Scofield Road Abandonment Request.

Commissioner Minton stated that he would have liked the input from the township showing they support this abandonment. He hoped the township supervisor would have been in attendance this evening. They have heard comments from those opposed to the abandonment at the last meeting. The staff prepared the information as requested by the Board with regard to how much MTF money is received and the traffic counts for Scofield Road, but the Road Commission has not received any type of written formal support from the township.

Tom Boggs, Exeter Township Trustee, stood up and indicated three township officials were attending the meeting as the supervisor is out of town.

Commissioner Stewart agreed that he would have like to hear from the township. He has reviewed the minutes from the township meeting where they voted, but he would like to make sure the township is working for the good of the entire township when moving to abandon this road. He has heard the concerns of the citizens citing use or safety conflict as a compelling reason against the abandonment, but this board is making the assumption that the township is acting in the best interest of their citizens.

Commissioner Londo indicated he understood the citizen's concerns voiced at the last meeting. He also understood the township's compelling argument that the \$1.44 million dollars they would receive when that road section is abandoned would go to fix their local roads which would benefit their citizens. He stated he was ready to vote.

Commissioner Stewart asked if a township representative could come to the podium to answer some questions. Tom Boggs, Township Trustee, stepped up to the podium.

Commissioner Stewart asked Mr. Boggs if he felt the township had voted in the best interest of the entire township after hearing all the concerns from the citizens in their open meeting. Mr. Boggs indicated yes.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the township officials had discussed with the residents how the money received would be spent of their roads. Mr. Boggs indicated if the abandonment is approved, the residents were told that work on Scofield, Bitz and Geirman Roads would be the first priority for upgrades. The township's intent is to have a special road meeting to discuss what type of fix would be applied to which roads. He added that this money would make extensive improvements to many township roads. It would go a long way.

Commissioner Stewart again asked if Mr. Boggs was telling the Road Commission Board that the township acted in the best interest of the entire townships and its residents. He wasn't sure that the idea of a township getting money to abandon a road was normal procedure.

Mr. Costello, MCRC Legal Counsel, indicated he have never seen it before, and wasn't able to perform research to see if it had been done elsewhere. Mr. Boggs indicated that the township legal counsel worked with Stoneco to make sure everything was legitimate.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the Road Commission staff had any objection to this abandonment. Mr. Snell indicated there was no objection to the Road Commission giving up their interest in this section of the local road.

Commissioner Londo asked if the traffic count was normal for this type of road. The information did not provide any type of comparison, a before and after count, or an average versus heavy traffic periods. He also asked if there was any concerns from the emergency response agencies. Mr. Snell indicated the traffic counters were left in place for 48 hours and came in at 90 ADT. To give an example, a primary road might average 2500 vehicles per day, so 90 ADT on a local road would be considered low. Mr. Snell did speak with Central Dispatch and they did not have any concerns about emergency situation response times.

Commissioner Londo asked Mr. Boggs about the possible additional jobs from StoneCo that the abandonment would provide to township citizens as mentioned in the prior meeting. Mr. Boggs wasn't sure the exact number and there wasn't a company representative in attendance. He explained Stoneco planned to expand and mine across the roadway and if he had to guesstimate he would say maybe five (5) jobs would be added. He also added that he talked with the Mayor of Village of Maybee and the township has a mutual agreement with the London/Maybee fire department to cover the western side of Scofield. He also indicated that improvements to Geirman Road would improve response time.

Commissioner Minton asked if it was still the townships preference to have this road abandoned. Mr. Boggs responded it was the unanimous vote of the board six (6) months ago.

Commissioner Minton asked if there were any concerns voiced by Airport Schools Transportation. Mr. Snell indicated he talked with the school and learned there were four (4) buses travel this road and they did not say it would be detrimental to their routes.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he was highly disappointed in the township. He would have liked the township to have sent a written letter to the Road Commission stating their support and approval of the abandonment request. The Road Commission works in concert with the 15 townships and we always like to have the support and approval from the township when moving forward. There has been two abandonments since he has been on the board, and one time the township asked the Road Commission to deny the abandonment and stated their reasons. The second time the township also voiced concern and the parties worked together to come up with a solution. The township then sent a letter outlining the agreement. Even though someone from the township has voiced an implied approval, it would have been better to have a written position from the township on this issue, similar to what has been done by other townships.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated he would like to deny the abandonment until such time as the township sends a written letter of support for the abandonment before this board takes any action. As far as public safety and response time goes, without the proper study subjective comments should not be made because there are a lot of factors involved in determining how this would affect the various emergency response agencies.

Commissioner Iacoangeli again voiced his concern citing the biggest opposition for him was the fact that the township has made failed to provide any type of official information regarding their position on the abandonment. The Road Commission had to formally request a copy of the minutes and the cooperation agreement. He realizes you cannot make everyone happy, but the Road Commission relies on the support of our partners (the townships) before taking action on issues that affect the motoring public and nothing has been received from the township.

Commissioner Londo asked Mr. Boggs if the township was opposed to providing a written letter of support to the Road Commission on the abandonment. Mr. Boggs said it would have been done had they been asked to do that. He was not aware that the township was asked to provide a letter.

Commissioner Stewart stated he felt the townships support came in the form of their meeting minutes and the cooperation agreement with Stoneco. But he agreed, it would have been better to have an official letter from the township outlining their support instead of having to ask for the information.

Mr. Costello indicated if the board chooses, they can postpone taking action to a date certain.

The next regular township meeting will be the third Tuesday in October. The township officials would need to discuss any type of special meeting with the Supervisor upon his return.

Commissioner Iacoangeli moved, supported by Commissioner Londo to postpone any action on the Scofield Road abandonment request to allow Exeter Township to submit a formal letter of support (or request for denial) and this issued would be added to the MCRC 10/22/2018 agenda under Unfinished Business. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

9. New Business –

- 1) Approve the Resolution to impose a 15-ton weight limit on the certified portion of Joann Street and Birchwood Drive, Berlin Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

Commissioner Londo asked what prompted this action. Mr. Pierce explained that residents have been calling about large trucks running on their recently chip sealed roads. Residents will be attending the Berlin Charter Township meeting to also voice their concerns. When the staff checked out the complaints, we learned a logging company has been hired to take down trees in a private wooded area and the company is not willing to take care of the roads, so the Road Commission needs to protect our assets.

Commissioner Minton moved, support by Commissioner Londo to approve the Resolution to impose a 15-ton weight limit on the certified portion of Joann Street and Birchwood Drive, Berlin Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

10. Report of Officers –

*Randy Pierce* (Managing Director) – Mr. Pierce informed the board that the walls are going up on the NE Salt Facility and it is on schedule to be completed the end of

October. He also explained that Camden Regis and Matt Snell attended an engineering job fair last week looking to recruit engineering interns.

*Matthew Snell* (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Snell indicated the job fair went well. He also advised the board that they are upgrading signals at Lewis and Rauch Roads and also Yargerville and Strasburg Roads and other locations throughout the county.

*David M. Leach* (Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Leach indicated the staff has been meeting with the 15 townships to discuss the 2019 projects. Crews are pulling berms and preparing for second application of dust control. The S. Stony Creek project is moving along with paving starting at Telegraph. The Jackman and Douglas Road projects will be base stabilized this week, and paved in about 7-10 days.

Mr. Leach was happy to announce the Lillian Subdivision project was completed last week. Other projects are being wrapped up. He also indicated they are waiting on the trusses but should be complete before the November 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

*Dori Hawkins-Freelain* (Director of Finance) – Ms. Hawkins-Freelain thanked the board for their support and approval on the 2019 MCRC Budget.

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

Commissioner Minton asked if the issue with the Sandywell Drive project in Bedford Township had been resolved. Mr. Snell indicated the parties came to an agreement so it has been resolved.

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked if the 5-year plan would be published on the MCRC website when completed. Mr. Snell explained that is still in the discussion phase. To put the document out there for public consumption could create issues as it will be a working document that could change and some citizens might view it as all projects listed are written in stone. At this point it is being viewed as an internal document, but citizens are welcome to call Dave Leach or himself about future projects.

11. Public Comment -

David Hoffman, County Commissioner, asked if more advanced notice could be given before getting to the stop sign at Strasburg and Yargerville Roads. He wasn't sure if the lights were motion activated or how they work. He also indicated he would like to see the ditching get done to reverse the water flow on Totten Road. He also indicated that Ms. Uhl from Dundee Township indicated they had additional monies for ditching.

Enrique Perez, 10596 Bitz Road, Maybee, addressed the board about the Scofield Road abandonment. He stated he wished the three township officials would have stayed to hear his concerns. He stated most of the information is inaccurate. He explained the only road that was been discussed getting improvements is Geirman Road, which is a road that one of the officials son lives on. During the town hall meeting, the residents said since they are most affected by this closure their roads should see improvements first. Citizens have asked questions, but received no answers from township officials.

Mr. Perez reminded the board that at the last meeting, Fire Chief Sweeney explained that Exeter Township handles most of the fires west of Scofield because the London/Maybee fire department is short staffed. Scofield Road is an important road to get to the other side of the township. There are more curves and corners which takes the truck longer as they need

to drive slower.

Mr. Perez indicated the township board isn't telling the truth about what roads will receive the money being paid by Stoneco. They don't live in the affected area so they aren't concerned about the roads that immediately affect these residents. He added that the road board asked questions from the township at the last meeting and the township failed to provide any answers. The citizens are being told the township can't guarantee where the money will be spent, yet Stoneco said it was outlined in the agreement how the money was to be spent. The township officials keep changing what they tell the residents.

At the prior meeting, Commissioner Pace asked Stoneco for a letter outlining how they were going to help residents, like providing a new access for the Sweeney farm that will be closed with this abandonment. Did the Road Commission get any information regarding that request?

Mr. Perez stated that residents have been threatened and harassed to support this abandonment by township officials. There has only been one meeting and nothing else scheduled. The township officials keep saying roads will be improved, yet when asked about improvements to Bitz and Scofield Roads township officials cannot guarantee anything.

Mr. Perez indicated the traffic counters were put on the road the week of the fair so you probably did not get an accurate reading. Residents in that area are farmers and they were at the fair most all day so you didn't get an accurate assessment of the vehicles traveling this road that had the counters been put out during a different week.

He also indicated his father was a firefighter for the City of Detroit for 40 years, and he knows a house can become engulfed in less than 5 minutes and timing is everything. He feels the township officials do not truly care about the residents living in this area.

Again, the township officials came to the meeting tonight unprepared. He would have liked the township officials to hear how they have lied and misled township residents about this abandonment process. The residents are aware the road will more than likely be closed, but our questions and concerns are not be addressed or answered. He thanked the board for allowing him to share his concerns.

Glen Burks, Scofield Road resident, appreciated the questions and concerns voiced by the board. He was grateful for the common sense questions that the road board asked about this issue.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Pace* was excused.

*Commissioner Stewart* stated he felt the 5-year plan should be available to view in the lobby. He felt when people see what type of work is being done, they will see the benefit of how the Road Commission is moving forward with a future plan. He also indicated he would be available on 10/11 to meet with MDOT.

Commissioner Stewart also stated MDOT had a contractor working on Lewis Avenue, and they did a good job, but had a bad attitude and used foul language to motorists. He would like the Road Commission to have a little more control and influence on these contractors.

*Commissioner Londo* had nothing additional to report.

*Commissioner Minton* indicated he was excused from the original abandonment hearing. He read the meeting minutes, but they do not accurately capture the emotions. He thanked Mr. Perez for his comments.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* stated he appreciated the comments about the 5-year plan and understood the expectations associated with it. He felt it would be a good communication tool, but understood funding, materials and project details could and will probably change.

The Board scheduled a workshop to discuss road maintenance for Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 10 a.m.

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