

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
October 24, 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, October 24, 2016 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>
Bruce R. Stammer, Jr.	Stephen J. Pace
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 Silent Opening Prayer.
5. Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the October 24, 2016 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Excused: 2 Motion carried.
6. Public Comment -

Chairman Iacoangeli explained anyone speaking during public comment needed to state their name and address when coming to the podium. He reminded those speaking that public comment time was a time to present your comments only, and it was not a time for questions and answers.

Cheryl Baltrip, Exeter Township Supervisor, indicated they had a room full of desperate people, and not an angry mob. She complimented the current road board and staff but indicated they are not responsible for things done by prior boards. She explained the board wasn't required to provide answers but she urged the board to listen to the people speaking tonight because Scofield Carleton Road has not been resealed or improved in almost 40 years. The people here tonight didn't expect to leave the meeting tonight believing this road would be placed on the improvement list for next year, but would like to have this road added to a long term plan. She added this road has been overlooked for years.

Mrs. Baltrip also mentioned when she became Supervisor in 1992 the road board suggested she put together a long term plan for the townships secondary roads, and they did that. However, when she asked the MCRC if they had a long term plan for the primary roads she was told no. When she inquired why the MCRC didn't have a long term plan for primary roads she was told the MCRC needed to be flexible in case emergencies pop up or other financial opportunities became available. There may be some logic to that, but the MCRC also needs to have a long term plan for primary roads. She suggested the board members drive this road and have a heart for these residents that live on this road.

Rosalyn Goudos, 5417 Scofield Carleton Road, indicated they have lived on this road since 1977 and have watched it deteriorate over the years. The sides are crumbling and the road is over crowned. She acknowledged the Road Commission has patched the potholes over the years but the road is in a dangerous condition. When the snow trucks plow, they only plow a 3 foot path down the middle because of the over crowning.

Virginia Wheeler, 4084 Scofield Carleton Road, stated she has lived on this road all her life. She remembers the road received a tar and stone treatment every 3-4 years, but nothing in the last 40 years. The road edges are broken and if you meet a school bus or another vehicle one has to get off the road in order to pass safely. It is a dangerous situation.

John Murphy, 12155 Finzel Road, stated the road is in terrible condition. He indicated his grandfather helped build that road and it hasn't been kept up and he didn't understand why.

Alfred Young, 2895 Scofield Carleton Road, explained he has farm fields and in the winter there is only one lane to drive on because of the over crowned road. When he had a tractor he used to use it to pull people out of the ditch. He has sold his tractor but still sees vehicles slide off the road into the ditches. He said people can't walk on this road, walk their dog, and ride their bikes because it is a very dangerous road.

Sandra Miles McIntosh, 4065 Scofield Carleton Road, stated she was grew up at 11602 Finzel Road. She echoed all the comments stated by the other residents. She also stated Scofield Carleton is a terrible road.

Mrs. McIntosh read a letter sent to the MCRC by Gene & Bonnie Swateck, who purchased her parents' home at 11602 Finzel Road, Carleton.

Mary Goode, 5473 Scofield Carleton Road, concurred with the other comments made about the poor condition of this road. She stated potholes stretch across the entire width of the road. She indicated she used to drive her horse and wagon down this road but can't anymore as it is too hard on her horse and equipment. She stated the road is very bad.

Ken Murphy, 12021 Finzel Road, thanked Cheryl Baltrip for arranging the residents to attend this meeting. He knows the funds are limited but the residents are requesting that Scofield Carleton be added to a list to be improved in the near future. He added that the road deteriorates a little more each winter. Every spring he has to rake up excess stone and pieces of broken pavement out of his yard and it is a hassle.

Sue Rodriguez, 3716 Scofield Carleton Road, indicated they had only been in the area 10 years and has invited friends and family to visit and they are appalled at the condition of the road because their road looks like they live in a third world nation. She indicated they won't even buy a new car because it would be destroyed by the road.

John Rodriguez, 3716 Scofield Carleton Road, echoed the sentiments of other residents. The road is bad and hoped the residents weren't being punished because their township didn't have the extra funds to participate in cost sharing.

Janice Doederline, 4780 Scofield Carleton Road, indicated she raised her children on this road the last 15 years, and they tried to learn to ride their bikes on a dangerous road. Then they grew and tried to learn how to drive on this dangerous road. All the driving instructors say this is a dangerous road and a safety issue. When the water lines were installed and the ditches set back, it allowed more room to drive on the side of the road in places. She stated it is sad they live on a road in this condition.

Joe Emerich, 4140 Scofield Carleton Road, stated the Road Commission trucks can't safely go down the end where he lives near Finzel Road. He indicated the road is extremely uneven and pitted. He is also concerned about emergency vehicles not being able to get down this road in the case of a true emergency. He stated there have been barns lost due to fire because fire trucks couldn't maneuver down this road.

John Nledifer, 2369 Scofield Carleton Road, indicated this road is a disaster and people drive way too fast for the conditions. It is a huge safety concern.

Cheryl Baltrip, Exeter Township Supervisor, thanked the Board for allowing her to speak again. She stated people have asked why Scofield Carleton has been ignored for many years. She has lobbied for Stoney Creek Road to be placed on a long term plan as a top priority primary road for years. She mentioned the survey that was taken several years ago about what the townships felt was their top priority primary road concerns. What would be the plan should the township not be able to kick in their 25 percent, would the Road Commission return the road to gravel and remove it from the primary road status.

Mrs. Baltrip explained that larger townships have the financial ability to contribute but Exeter is a small township with a small tax base, and they recently lost the quarry. The township and residents urged the board to consider placing this road on a priority primary road list for improvement. Something needs to come from this meeting to say the road needs to be improved. She suggested working jointly with Ash Township since there is a section of road in Ash. This project could benefit two townships.

The residents have been patiently waiting but time is running out to get something done. She indicated she might be able to start the process, but not finish it. She added the next township supervisor would follow up with the township board to determine how to work with the Road Commission to get improvements made to this road. She reminded the audience that the squeaky wheel does work and to come back to these meetings to see what is going to be done. She begged the road board to consider Scofield Carleton Road as a top priority.

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

- 1) Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 657 Vendor Checks #69125-69162	\$ 636,496.97
No. 675 Payroll Checks #63243-63255 & Advice #20001-20085	\$ 227,525.23
- 3) Township Contracts – N/A
- 4) Approve the Resolution to lift the 25 ton weight limit and signs for the portion of Chinavare Road (US Turnpike to Labo Road), Berlin Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan, effective 10/25/2016 through 12/20/2016 or completion of the hauling operation.
- 5) Approve and sign the Drainage Easement with Kenneth Arting, Milan Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

Commissioner Stammer moved, seconded by Commissioner Minton to approve the October 24, 2016 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Excused: 2 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business – None.
9. New Business – None.

10. Report of Officers –

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce explained the staff has been looking into used equipment to expand the chip seal program. Someone will be going to Kentucky to check out a used tar distributor and chip spreader, and should the equipment prove in good shape, he would like to get the boards pre-approval to spend up to \$70,000 to purchase this equipment.

Mr. Pierce thanked everyone in the audience for coming to the meeting. He has driven that road and understands their concerns. The Road Commission is striving to make better roads with the support and participation from townships. With the support of the current road board, the MCRC is stepping outside the box and making improvements to a variety of primary roads. This board is very good to work with and is forward thinking. He thanked Cheryl Baltrip for her professionalism and stated she will be missed.

Commissioner Stammer moved, seconded by Commissioner Minto to approve the purchase of a tar distributor and chip spreader as determined by the staff and authorize the Managing Director to spend up to \$70,000 for this used equipment. Vote: Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Excused: 2 Motion carried

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant has nothing additional to report.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher explained that Ash Township passed the truck ordinance and the staff continues to work with Berlin and Erie Townships. It is starting to come together and should be busy over the winter installing signs.

Keith C. Richard (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard had nothing additional to report.

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

11. Public Comment –

Rod Beaton, 8720 Hivon Road, indicated he looks forward to working with the Road Commission should be get elected.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace – Excused.

Commissioner Stammer thanked everyone for coming and voicing their concerns. A lot of roads have been fixed over the last 6 years. The funding has been slow coming in and with the new legislation the Road Commission will see a slow infusion of money over the next 5 years. He stressed the importance of Asset Management and in maintaining the roads that are still in fair and good condition. He explained you aren't always able to fix the worst roads and let the fair and good roads fall in disrepair. He mentioned the rejuvenation seal on Samaria Road which was recently reconstructed and needs to be maintained so it doesn't fall into the same condition it was in. Plank Road was improved and it will need preventative maintenance to keep it in good shape. The worst roads cannot always get fixed without additional funding. He stated it all starts with the citizens.

Commissioner Stammer explained that residents in Bedford Township subdivisions have been turning to SAD's (Special Assessment Districts) to fix their local roads because of the lack of funding earmarked for their roads. He pointed out a change in the board and staff over the last few years has resulted in an improved attitude of the Road Commission right down to the workers. He stated the Board is supportive of their plight but with limited funding it makes it a challenge to address all the roads that need work. He explained the board had to look at the entire road system as a whole when budgeting money for roads.

Commissioner Londo - Excused.

Commissioner Minton stated the Road Commission isn't against their request to have their road improved, but it comes down to a matter of limited funding. The staff has become very creative in the last few years in finding different types of solutions to address road issues. He thanked Cheryl Baltrip for bringing the residents together to discuss their concerns, and for the professionalism that she always displays. He thanked all the residents for the professional manner in which they presented their concerns.

Cheryl Baltrip asked if anyone has approached the legislators about adding a third criteria to the MDOT funding mechanism since Monroe County is flat, no drainage and has a limestone base. Counties to the north of Monroe have better hard aggregate base material and isn't as wet since we flow into the bed of Lake Erie. What is the worthiness of presenting this option to MDOT to add criteria for those counties that have miles of roadside drainage issues and culverts since it is a more expensive fix. She stated Monroe County should qualify as a special needs community.

Commissioner Iacoangeli thanked everyone for coming. He indicated Commissioner Stammer stated it very well in that the Road Commission is focused on road improvement projects but also in maintaining those roads that have been improved to keep them in good shape. He stated he would make a point to drive this road. He said it meant a lot that the residents took time to come and share their concerns.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk