

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
MONROE, MICHIGAN
December 5, 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, December 5, 2016 the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 5:33 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>
Stephen J. Pace	Charles A. Londo
Bruce R. Stammer, Jr.	
Dan Minton	
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 Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the December 5, 2016 regular meeting agenda as presented/amended. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment -

Jackie Meyers, MCCC student, asked a question about item #4 on the consent agenda. She wondered if the MCRC had a procedure in place to acquire more money if the low bidder could not complete the job for the allotted \$70,946 as stated in the agenda item.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated that consent agenda item would be removed for further discussion to allow an answer.

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

Commissioner Iacoangeli asked to have items 7[4] and 7[5] removed for further discussion.

1) Approval of Minutes- November 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 738 Payroll Checks #63269-63280 & Advice #20175-20257	\$ 221,258.87
Vacation Payout-Randall Check #63281	\$ 568.45
No. 746 Vendor Checks #69268-69305	\$1,227,448.87
No. 751 Vendor Checks #69306-69350	\$ 953,678.01

3) Township Contracts - N/A

4) Removed for further discussion.

5) Removed for further discussion.

6) Authorize the County Highway Engineer, in consensus with Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance and Director of Operations, to impose the Seasonal Weight Restrictions("frost laws") for Monroe County roads for 2016/2017 when deemed appropriate, in accordance with Act 300 of 1949 (Michigan Vehicle Code).

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the December 5, 2016 Consent Agenda as amended. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

4) Award the contract for the 2017 Tree Removal Program to low bidder, CHOP, in the amount of \$70,946 and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Assenmacher explained since there are restrictions in place to protect specific species of bats, the Road Commission implemented a winter tree removal program. When these services are bid, there are different unit prices for different size trees. The staff reviews the anticipated needs for construction and maintenance projects for the upcoming year and what will need to be done to get the trees cut down while the leaves are off so it is more convenient for the Road Commission and the contractors. The staff established a budget for tree removal services and depending on how the bids are received there is some flexibility to add or delete trees.

Ms. Meyers thanked Mr. Assenmacher for the explanation.

Commissioner Minton noted the CHOP contractor was from the Grand Rapids area and wondered why local companies weren't selected. He would like to see the work stay local.

Mr. Pierce reminded the Board they have the right to accept or reject any bid. CHOP was the low bidder and the recommendation was based strictly on numbers alone. The staff did some research and found no reason not to award the bid to this company.

Mr. Assenmacher explained that the Board wanted to stay open to allow opportunities to other companies therefore they looked at all options and found no reason not to award to low bidder.

Commissioner Pace agreed with Commissioner Minton that he would like to see the bid go to a local company, but when the bid comes in approximately 15% lower than the local companies that was a valid reason to award bid to CHOP. He inquired if the Road Commission crews could do some of this work. Mr. Pierce indicated these are large trees and our crews don't have the resources or ability to perform this type of work.

Commissioner Stammer indicated the \$13,000 difference was a sizable spread and saving money would allow the ability to remove more trees as needed. Maybe next year the local companies will bid more competitively.

Commissioner Iacoangeli agreed that he would like to see the Road Commission use local companies, but there is a significant difference in bid prices. The staff couldn't find any reason not to award the bid to the low bidder based on their follow up and research so he would tend to go with staff recommendation.

Commissioner Minton identified three categories and inquired if the contract could be split up. Mr. Assenmacher indicated the bid was not set up that way and he would not recommend that.

Commissioner Pace moved, supported by Commissioner Stammer to award the contract for the 2017 Tree Removal Program to low bidder, CHOP, in the amount of \$70,946 and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

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

5) Authorize the transfer of \$50,000 to the Monroe County Retirement Systems for MCRC retiree 13th checks as outlined in the contracts.

Commissioner Pace indicated the Board was given additional information before the meeting had he was able to briefly look through it. He remembered talking about this last year as the Board was looking for a way to be fair and divide a specific amount evenly between the retirees, but looking at the information provided he realizes some retirees will be taking a substantial hit in the 13th check.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the Board amended the 13th check policy and established a \$50,000 amount to be divided evenly after having to make a decision last year to either pay zero (0) COLA or pay upwards of \$75,000 for the 13th check for retirees. The Board last year wasn't supportive of continuing to fund in excess of \$75,000 going into the future. The 13th check was originally paid out of excess earnings and there hasn't been any excess earnings in quite some time. This year the COLA was 0.3% which is outlined in the information provided and wouldn't give the retirees much of anything. However, the Board once again has the ability to approve the COLA amount or the \$50,000 as outlined in the policy. He also stated he didn't believe any retirees have contacted the Road Commission after receiving the information on the change in policy.

Mr. Pierce indicated he hadn't been contacted by any retirees. He also explained that the Board could wait until the 12/19 meeting to make a decision. The contracts allow the Board to make a decision to pay COLA or the \$50,000 divided evenly.

Commissioner Iacoangeli indicated the Board's policy was reviewed and amended based on information received and wanting to be more in line with how the County of Monroe awards their 13th check to retirees. The Board each year has the choice to pay COLA or the lump sum \$50,000 distribution divided evenly based on the policy amended in 2016. He indicated the Board could take the information given by the staff and think about it and take action at the 12/19 regular meeting is so desired.

Commissioner Pace didn't feel the Road Commission should mirror the County.

Commissioner Minton agreed that the 13th check was to be awarded to retirees out of excess earnings, but there hasn't been an excess earnings in years. He felt the \$50,000 even distribution was fair.

Commissioner Stammer felt the \$50,000 established by the Board in the revised policy was a good figure.

Mr. Pierce explained the Board could allow the staff to provide a comparison of the COLA figures for future expenses since it is compounded and then take action at the 12/19 regular meeting.

Commissioner Stammer stated the Board changed the policy to designate \$50,000 and there is no reason to change that decision. Should the Board choose, they can review the policy in 2017 and make changes.

Commissioner Iacoangeli agreed and explained this is the reason the Board implemented the new policy giving the COLA option or an even distribution of \$50,000 for retirees. He agreed, if the Board wants to review the policy they can look at it again in 2017.

Commissioner Pace moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 to the Monroe County Retirement System for MCRC retiree 13th checks as outlined in the contracts. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business – None.

9. New Business –

1) Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the request from KBK Landscaping, Inc. to extend roadside mowing contract through 2017. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

2) Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the additional \$15,000 expense for 2016 back bank mowing due to heavy brush and larger trees that was not anticipated in original proposal. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

3) Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stammer to approve the expense up to \$23,000 for contracted grader work. Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Excused: 1 Motion carried.

10. Report of Officers –

Randy Pierce (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce informed the Board that the MCRC will go out for formal bids for the drainage work at the intersection of Dunbar and LaPlaisance. This work will be done in conjunction with the railroad company, and will provide an opportunity to correct the outlet problem in this area.

Phillip C. Masserant (Director of Finance) – Mr. Masserant stated the auditors started the audit field work today. He has been able close year end, and he hope to get October financials to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Keith C. Richard (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard indicated the change in weather has prompted the change in the seasons. The night shift is now operational and they are working 7pm – 3am Monday through Friday. The day shift employees are working on the V-box inserts and plow installations and the night shift is working on snow route training since there are a number of new members. We are also working on winterizing summer equipment for storage.

Scott Assenmacher (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Assenmacher stated the Annual MDOT Traffic Summit was taking place Friday, along with the annual MDOT budget following the summit. The Federal Aid committee will be meeting Wednesday, December 14th at 1:30 p.m. at the MCRC.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello was pleased to report to the Board that the McMillan lawsuit was dismissed. The plaintiff has the opportunity to file an appeal, but the liability attorney feels the chances are slim.

11. Public Comment – None.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

Commissioner Pace had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Stammer had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Londo was excused.

Commissioner Minton had nothing additional to report.

Commissioner Iacoangeli thanked the MCCC student for attending the meeting.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Cheryl A. U'Ran

Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk