

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
December 18, 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, December 18, 2017, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacoangeli at 2:00 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 Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the December 18, 2017 revised meeting agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment – None.

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

1) Approval of Minutes- December 4, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

2) Approval of Journal Entry

No. 784 Vendor Checks #71432-71497 \$ 249,502.63

No. 804 Payroll Checks #63719-63732 & Advice #22702-22790 \$ 238,361.96

Bank Service Charge – November 2017 \$ 89.85

No. 805 Vendor Checks #71498-71538 \$ 305,672.46

3) Township Contracts – N/A

4) Approve the Resolution to impose gross weight load limits on Jeffs Road bridge over Ottawa Lake outlet, Whiteford Township, Monroe County, Michigan, and erect signs as follows:

One Unit Vehicle 42 Tons

Two Unit Vehicle 63 Tons

Three Unit Vehicle 77 Tons

5) Approve the Resolution to open the Eastwood Drive over Plum Creek structure, Monroe Charter Township, Monroe County, Michigan, to all traffic at legal limits.

6) Approve and sign the Dedicated Highway & Utility Easement with Hollingsworth Logistics Group LLC for .061 acres of land along Industrial Drive, Bedford Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

7) Approve and sign the Dedicated Highway & Utility Easement with Hollingsworth Logistics Group LLC for .166 acres of land along Industrial Drive, Bedford Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

8) Approve and sign the Dedicated Highway & Utility Easement with Temperance Enterprises Co., LLC for .063 acres of land along Industrial Drive, Bedford Township, Monroe County, Michigan.

9) Approve the agreement with Consumers Energy Company for the Decorative Street Lighting project at the intersection of Sterns and Secor Roads, Bedford Township, Monroe County, Michigan, and authorize the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Pace to approve the December 18, 2017 Consent Agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business – None.
9. New Business – None.
10. Report of Officers –

*Randy Pierce* (Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Pierce let the Board know that continued mediation with UWUA Local #543 was scheduled for January 23, 2018.

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

*Keith C. Richard* (Director of Operations) – Mr. Richard explained that approximately 5,000 ton of salt has been used during snow storms thus far. Due to the blowing winds and freezing temperatures the majority of salt was used on the state trunkline roads. Mr. Richard indicate they will be looking internally at how salt is used and recorded.

Mr. Richard also reported that one of the pickup trucks was stolen from a residence earlier that morning, but was found via GPS abandoned off Union Street. The inside had been ransacked, a chain saw and leaf blower stolen but no other damage. The staff will be looking at better ways to secure the vehicles.

Commissioner Pace asked how many times the crews have been called out for snow and ice control and the cost. Mr. Richard indicated four times so far. Mr. Masserant indicated he hadn't run the numbers yet.

Mr. Pierce explained each event runs about \$50,000 but they have been concerned about safety and ice. The MCRC cannot salt subdivisions other than intersections.

Commissioner Pace agreed we should stick to our policy to salt only subdivision intersections, just like other municipalities. If townships wants something over and above what the policy dictates, they should be willing to pay for the extra cost.

Mr. Richard explained that when the staff meets annually with the townships there has been discussions on snow removal and the priority to perform work on state trunklines and primary's, then locals and subdivisions. Townships do not seem interested in spending the extra money for this service.

Commissioner Londo indicated the subdivision where he lives pays for their own road maintenance and snow removal in Ash Township. Commissioner Pace asked if the MCRC had to accept subdivision roads into the county road system. Mr. Westenkirchner explained if the roads are platted, using the current plat act as written, yes we have to accept them. We accept the roads based on standards for construction, but not for routine maintenance. Developers can elect not to go through the plat act process and choose a PUD or a private road using the individual township zoning ordinances.

Commissioner Londo suggested the legislature should amend the plat act to access future plats and subdivisions with special assessment for road maintenance and snow/ice control. Commissioner Pace indicated he talked with a Representative in the past about this type of situation, and Rep. Richardville stated they would never consider that option.

Commissioner Londo suggested Mr. Pierce mention this idea to the County Road Association as an alternative for road maintenance. County Road Commissions along with Cities and Villages can no longer handle the costs to perform road maintenance and snow removal with the limited revenue received.

Commissioner Stewart stated the Road Commission often gets thrown under the bus. The townships need to be better educated and more aware of their responsibilities when approving more subdivisions within their township and the ramifications of additional roads. There is a problem with even the legislators understanding who is responsible for what roads and not just direct them to contact the Road Commission.

Commissioner Stewart asked since he was fairly new to the Board, if the 5,000 tons was an average usage. Mr. Richard indicated a snow event is easier to manage than the colder temperatures and wind that result in ice and the additional use of salt.

Mr. Pierce explained the crews were on top of the storm during the day, but it makes it difficult to keep up at night when the sun goes down and the temperatures drop. Storms with a fine mist are the hardest to manage and people forget how to drive in snow. The MCRC is doing a good job but is looking to hire a few more Local #543 employees which will help out in the trucks. What we have used isn't out of line with the norm.

Commissioner Minton felt the crews did a great job on the recent snow event. He wanted to make sure we didn't scrimp on major roads such as Telegraph, where salt is needed. He also stated it was important not to overreact.

Commissioner Pace asked if the majority of that 5,000 tons was placed on state roads. Mr. Pierce indicated a good portion, but also advised the Board that schools and other municipalities purchase salt from the MCRC.

*Frank Westenkirchner* (County Highway Engineer) – Mr. Westenkirchner had nothing additional to report.

*Philip Costello* (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello explained he was working with staff on the mowing contract and the inconsistent language between the state statute affecting when mowing can take place during certain times of the year. Pheasants Forever have a different opinion on when mowing can and cannot occur. Bids will be coming in soon and the staff is looking for consistency.

11. Public Comment – None.

12. Commissioners' Comments -

*Commissioner Pace* pointed out that there is no one in the audience today, which is a first for him. He also thanked the staff and employees for a very good year. He has received good feedback and citizens are noticing the difference. He appreciated the efforts of all the employees.

Commissioner Pace also indicated he would like to see the Board be able to implement the use of tablets and cut down on paper. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Commissioner Stewart* stated he attended his first Parks and Recreation meeting. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as well. He felt everyone was doing a good job and was happy where the Road Commission was going in the future.

*Commissioner Londo* asked if the staff had received more complaints about the meeting time.

Mr. Pierce indicated nothing new, just the few complaints from a couple County Commissioners.

*Commissioner Minton* wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

*Commissioner Iacoangeli* agreed with Commissioner Pace that tablets was the way to go instead of laptops.

Commissioner Pace asked if any applications had been received for the County Highway Engineer position. Mr. Pierce indicated no.

Commissioner Londo indicated salaries for the management team needs a serious look at because they are not competitive. He felt the entire administrative staff is grossly under compensated for what they are responsible for and the challenges they encounter every day. He is concerned that we cannot fill an administrative position due to the low wage and he would like to see a compensation study done to adjust the administrative team, and get a plan put in place.

Commissioner Iacoangeli wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and would see everyone in 2018.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Iacoangeli stated if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

*Cheryl A. U'Ran*

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Cheryl A. U'Ran, Deputy Clerk