

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS - MONROE, MICHIGAN

March 13, 2023

1 At a Regular Meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners at their offices located at the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) 840 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, Michigan, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stewart at 5:30pm.

2 **ROLL CALL** by the Deputy Clerk as follows:

James Jacobs	Present
Danny Minton	Present
Jack Thayer	Present
William Kipf	Present
Greg Stewart	Present

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

3 The **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was lead by Chairman Stewart.

4 **AN OPENING MOMENT OF SILENCE OR PRAYER** was lead by Chairman Stewart.

5 **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Moved by Commissioner: Minton Supported by Commissioner: Thayer
to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Motion Carried

6 **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

7 **CONSENT AGENDA (with immediate effect)**

7.1 Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting - February 27, 2023

7.2 Approval of Minutes: Closed Session - February 27, 2023

7.3 Journal Entries

Entry No.	Date	Description	Transfer Amount
137	3/1/2023	Payroll Checks 66602 - 66617 Advices 34941 - 35027 Bank Service Fee February, 2023 D. Hawkins-Freelain Vacation Payout 66618 - 66619	\$ 357,463.42
138	3/1/2023	Vendor Checks 80293 - 80319	\$ 49,138.63
159	3/8/2023	Vendor Checks 80320 - 80359	\$ 89,013.38

7.4 Township Contracts

Township	Project #	Road	Location	Work Type
Dundee	504.004.235004	Various	Various	Dust Control
Exeter	504.006.230601	Colf	Caperanall to Sumpter	Single Chip Seal
Exeter	504.006.230606	O'Hara	Sumpter	Ditching
Exeter	504.006.235006	Various	Various	Dust Control
Ida	504.021.232117	Minx	Wood to Rauch	Cross Tile Repla.
LaSalle	504.021.232117	Minx	Wood to Rauch	Cross Tile Repla.
LaSalle	489.009.230905	Lakeshore & Be	S. Otter to New HMA	Resurfacing
Summerfield	504.014.231410	Dargantz	Lulu to Rose	Cross Tile Repla.
Summerfield	504.014.231411	Lulu	Dargantz to Rose	Cross Tile Repla.

Whiteford	504.021.232114	Adler	Sterns to Consear	Single Chip Seal
Whiteford	504.015.231503	Erie	Whiteford Center to Whiteford	Single Chip Seal
Whiteford	490.015.249136	Hicker	at Ottawa Lake Drain	Bridge Rehab.

7.5 Approve the revised Resolution of Commitment and Support for the Statewide Local Agency Bridge Bundle Program Phase II.

7.6 Approve the Resolution for the Michigan Department of Transportation County Wide ACT 51 Map set and the Urban Area ACT 51 Map set and authorize the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the

Moved by Commissioner: Minton Supported by Commissioner: Thayer
to approve the regular meeting consent agenda items 7.1 through 7.6 as presented.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Motion Carried

8 UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Approval of the AFSCME Local #839 Collective Bargaining Agreement effective April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2026.

Moved by Commissioner: Minton Supported by Commissioner: Kipf
to approve the AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented.

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

James Jacobs	<u> Yes </u>	
William Kipf	<u> Yes </u>	
Jack Thayer	<u> Yes </u>	
Danny Minton	<u> Yes </u>	
Greg Stewart	<u> Yes </u>	<i>Motion Carried.</i>

9.2 Approval of the Individual Employment Agreement with David M. Leach as Interim Managing Director effective February 28, 2023 through February 28, 2024.

Commissioner Minton stated at the last meeting a committee of himself and Commissioner Jacobs was appointed to meet and discuss with Mr. Leach an Employment Agreement. This was completed and it has been put forth with what is believed a good agreement for everyone. Commissioner Minton recommended the approval of the employment agreement with Mr. Leach.

Moved by Commissioner: Minton Supported by Commissioner: Jacobs
to approve the employment agreement with David M. Leach as presented.

Commissioner Stewart thanked both commissioners for their time and effort.

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

James Jacobs	<u> Yes </u>	
William Kipf	<u> Yes </u>	
Jack Thayer	<u> Yes </u>	
Danny Minton	<u> Yes </u>	
Greg Stewart	<u> Yes </u>	<i>Motion Carried.</i>

10 REPORT OF OFFICERS

David Leach (Managing Director)

Mr. Leach thanked the Board for their support during the last few weeks. Mr. Leach reported the AFSCME contract was finalized and thanked the Board for its approval. Additionally, Mr. Leach reported Ms. Kim LaRocca has taken the position of Director of Finance effective today. Ms. LaRocca brings 25 years of experience in the finance department. Mr. Leach also reported working out a employment agreement with Mr. Matthew Snell. Mr. Snell will be returning as the Director of Engineering on March 30, 2023. Mr. Leach reported we are progressing to where we need to be and will be in good shape moving forward.

Mr. Leach reported on the recent weather events stating the teams have been nothing less than spectacular in responding. Many of the events seemed to have happened on the weekends and crews have kept things safe for the motoring public.

Mr. Leach reported that our water jet is completely out of service. We had the purchase of a new water jet truck in the capital improvement budget; the order for the new truck was placed some time ago with anticipated delivery in May. The delivery time has since been pushed back to July and an agreement was worked out with the vendor for the rental of a water jet truck. A contract is also in place with the Drain Commission for use of their water jet as it is available; however, the Drain Commission has the same need as we do for their own equipment which made scheduling difficult. During the time our water jet truck has been out of service, service requests have been piling up. With the arrival of the rental equipment, some of those service requests will start to be addressed. Other requests will be addressed when lake levels go down, county ditches begin draining and the road side ditches are able to drain. Mr. Leach thanked the Board for their continued support.

Commissioner Thayer applauded Mr. Leach and Ms. Regis for pulling the staffing together, bringing Ms. LaRocca on board, which has been needed for the past two years, and securing Mr. Snells return.

Camden Regis (Human Resources Director)

Ms. Regis congratulated Ms. LaRocca stating she is worthy of the position and has no doubt she will do a good job. Ms. Regis reported work on the fair parade float has been postponed during the transitional period over the last week however we will get back to it soon.

Ms. Regis reported a lock was installed on the door leading to the back offices in the Administration building in light of some threats and disgruntled citizens. The lock was installed for added protection of our employees.

Commissioner Minton commented that it was a good idea to install the lock and asked if the active shooter drills held addressed items like this. Ms. Regis stated the training did not include an assessment of the building, it included what to do if there was an active shooter. Getting an assessment of the buildings has been previously discussed.

Kim LaRocca (Director of Finance)

Ms. LaRocca stated she was thankful and excited for the opportunity to advance at the Road Commission and hold the position of Director of Finance. Ms. LaRocca thanked the Board for their support and of the support provided to Mr. Leach in his decisions.

Ms. LaRocca reported on the audit which is due at the end of March. Ms. LaRocca indicated she picked up where Ms. Hawkins-Freelain left off adding that the contracted employee from Plante & Moran has been on a leave for the last two weeks. Documentation has been provided to the auditors who have in turn assured that the audit will be completed by the dead line.

Commissioner Minton stated he wanted to personally congratulate Ms. LaRocca adding that he has always heard good things and is appreciative of her stepping up recently and in the past to keep things rolling. Commissioner Minton stated he has no doubt Ms. LaRocca will do a good job.

Commissioner Stewart stated he has also heard good things.

Philip Costello (Legal Counsel)

Mr. Costello reported he was hoping to provide an update on pending litigation however he does not have an update to provide at this time. Mr. Costello had nothing further to report.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

11.1 Ian Kohlhofer - 10900 Summerfield Road Temperance MI 48182

Mr. Kohlhofer reported he resides on Summerfield Road just south of School Road and North of Samaria Road. Mr. Kohlhofer reported for the last five years he has had problems with his yard flooding, currently 3/4 of his front yard is under water which stops approximately thirty feet from the front of his home. Mr. Kohlhofer has pictures to present to the Board. Mr. Kohlhofer reported there are no drainage ditches on the east side of the road where his home is located, there are only approximately 300 feet of roadside ditch that ends on his property, no ditching is located past that point to Samaria Road. Mr. Kohlhofer reported he shot grade and all water off the road flows into his yard and the property around his is higher, additionally the ditch is graded to his property. There is no ditch past his driveway. Currently, Mr. Kohlhofer has two sump pumps installed and his basement remains under approximately two inches of water. Mr. Kohlhofer reported during dry seasons, flooding occurs. Mr. Kohlhofer reported he has attempted to make contact by calling and emailing, however the attempts remain unanswered. Mr. Kohlhofer stated his yard is under approximately eight inches of water. There also are no road side ditches which would allow the water to drain to the County drains on Samaria. Currently there are three homes that have road side ditches with all water standing in his yard.

Commissioner Stewart advised Mr. Kohlhofer to stay after the meeting to discuss concerns with staff.

11.2 Bronco McKart - AFSCME Local 839 President

Mr. McKart congratulated Ms. Larocca stating her promotion is a great gain to management and great loss to AFSCME and a great gain for the organization as a whole. Mr. McKart reported when finishing negotiations, the tone was different on the last day, Mr. Leach was relaxed, Ms. Regis spoke and the lawyer laughed. Mr. McKart stated the last day of negotiations was smooth and completed by noon. Appreciation was given to management and the Board. Mr. McKart reported he felt the Road Commission is headed in a really good direction; within the last two weeks a Finance Director and County Highway Engineer was hired. Mr. McKart stated he felt everyone knows the right decisions have been made, great job to everyone.

12 COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Kipf (Member) -

Commissioner Kipf congratulated to Ms. LaRocca on her new position, also heard good things from people. Commissioner Kipf stated he is excited for where things are headed and the future of the Road Commission.

Commissioner Jacobs (Member) -

Commissioner Jacobs congratulated our new Director and the advancement of staff. No other comment.

Commissioner Thayer (Member) -

Commissioner Thayer echoed the comments of Commissioner Kipf and Commissioner Jacobs.

Commissioner Minton (Vice Chairman) -

Commissioner Minton asked for a update on the Bedford Trade fair. Mr. Leach reported things were very good, many concerns can be handled once we communicate, educate, and explain items. Some complaints were of plowing snow and we explained that we do not hold the state trunk line routes. Mr. Leach reported when we are able to educate, we get good conversations and are perceived very well. Mr. Leach stated all in all, these type of events are very good. The discussion on the roundabouts were mostly positive. The more we are out there the better the public understands. Many conversations included the topic of drainage. What most don't understand is that we drain Lenawee county. When lake Erie floods it causes River Raisin to flood. Commissioner Minton thanked Mr. Leach for the update.

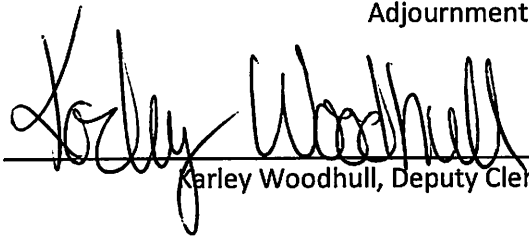
Commissioner Stewart (Chairman) -

Commissioner Stewart echoed other comments from the Board. Commissioner Stewart stated the Bedford Fair was mostly positive, some about drains, few thank you's with what we are doing and how they have advanced over the years. Commissioner Stewart stated it is about continuous awareness, needing to keep telling about regulations and how things work. Many questions about the roundabout and some didn't understand our position which is essentially the Townships position. Mr. Leach stated his idea for the next Bedford trade fair is on the topic of Special Assessment Districts. Commissioner Stewart congratulated everyone, stating you are here for a reason.

13 ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting with no further objection.

Adjournment at: 5:56pm



Karley Woodhull, Deputy Clerk

Monday April 10, 2023
Date