

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

May 22, 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 2:00pm

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

Danny Minton	Present
Jack Thayer	Present
William Kipf	Present
James Jacobs	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 agenda as presented.

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

6 **PUBLIC COMMENT** (For items on this agenda)

Roderick Beaton - 8720 Hivon Road, Maybee MI 48159 - Exeter Township

Mr. Beaton reported at the corner of Hivon and Rawsonville roads, the road is blocked because the culvert failed. Originally steel sheets were going to be placed overtop of the culvert so vehicles could go back and forth. Mr. Beaton reported that he is just as guilty as everyone else in moving barricades and going through. Mr. Beaton reported the MCRC came out and put stanchions in the ground; however, there are now safety hazards with the road being closed. Mr. Beaton reported if an ambulance has to come out, they would have to go all the way around which would take an additional seven minutes. Police and fire would be delayed if they came the wrong way because the road is closed. Mr. Beaton reported he spoke with an engineer and was told the repair would not be completed until this winter. Mr. Beaton asked us to think of trying to fix it sooner so they do not only have the inconvenience but that the safety hazards are resolved. Commissioner Stewart acknowledged the request and stated this work depends on many variables which will be identified to see what can possibly be done. Mr. Beaton stated that is all he is asking for is the consideration in getting it fixed. Appreciation was given to the Board.

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

7.1 Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting - May 8, 2023

7.2 Journal Entries

Entry No.	Date	Description	Transfer Amount
329	5/9/2023	Paychecks	66709 - 66725 \$ 321,061.16
		Advices	35373 - 35457
		Vacation Payout - A. Foley	66726
330	5/10/2023	Vendor Checks	80580 - 80634 \$ 480,170.61
		Bank Service Fee	April 2023
350	5/17/2023	Vendor Checks	80635 - 80662 \$ 215,535.02

7.3 Township Contracts

Township	Project #	Road	Location	Work Type
London	504.010.231006	Wanty	Darling to Sherman	Cross Tile Replace.

7.4 Approve the Resolution to enter into MDOT Contract No. 23-5198 for hot mix asphalt resurfacing on Sterns Road, Samaria Road, and Secor Road; and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

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

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

8 UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

9 NEW BUSINESS - None

9.1 Approve an amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan to change the item(s) purchased from a Boom Arm Mower to two (2) pickup trucks with the budgeted line item remaining at \$100,000.00.

Mr. Leach reported the Capital Improvement Plan has a line item for the purchase of a boom arm mower in the amount of \$100,000.00. In today's economy, this is not enough funding to purchase a used mower in good operable condition. Mr. Leach reported reaching out to other municipalities and our current mowing contractor in an attempt to locate a used mower. Additionally, equipment auctions were followed. As opposed to requesting additional funding, Mr. Leach stated he felt it was best to shift the \$100,000.00 within the current budget to the purchase of two pickup trucks for our Gradall crews. The purchase of the mower would be moved to the 2024 budget with an increase of funding approximated at \$180,000.00. This increase would allow the purchase of a new fully equipped boom arm mower.

Moved by Commissioner: Minton Supported by Commissioner: Kipf
 to approve the amendment to the Capital Improvement Plan as requested.

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

10 REPORT OF OFFICERS

David Leach (Interim Managing Director/Superintendent of Maintenance) -

Mr. Leach thanked the Board for the approval to capital improvement plan. Mr. Leach reported a call was received from Mr. Ned Birkey regarding the Karst property. Mr. Birkey is looking to restart conversations. We will be meeting on June 14, and are under the assumption that the donation of the property will be the main topic. Mr. Leach stated he believed we had a valuation of the property completed a few years ago which came back at over \$80,000.00. At that time we were not willing to donate a piece of property of that value. Commissioner Kipf stated he assisted with the market analysis which was requested by Ms. Hawkins-Freelain. The valuation is assuming it is a buildable parcel. Commissioner Kipf stated he is unsure from an engineering standpoint if the property will withstand building. Someone with more knowledge would have to look at the property and indicate if the property can be built on which would dictate the actual value of the parcel. Commissioner Thayer stated he believed there was a follow up on the property which indicated that it was not truly a sinkhole. Not too far away from the parcel was a site that was considered a sink hole, but our parcel was not. Commissioner Kipf stated he was approached by another individual regarding water that comes and goes, almost as if it is spring action right across the street. Commissioner Thayer inquired if the DNR could give some insight as to what the area might truly be. Commissioner Jacobs reported there are maps available online through EAGLE which could tell what the soil composition is. Beyond this information, a soils analysis would need to be completed.

Unless there is contamination, building could be completed on pylons to get down to the bearing point. As long as it is not a wetland, or contamination levels that would prohibit building. Building on the parcel should be possible however the cost could be high. Commissioner Thayer asked if the property was visited by a member of our group. Mr. Leach confirmed the site was visited by Ms. Hawkins-Freelain and Mr. Snell who also took numerous photos. It appeared to be all wooded with a small trail going through it. Mr. Snell stated he did not recall the property being swampy but it was visited in the summer. It was apparent that it was mined at one point for aggregate. There is a County drain which goes through the back of the parcel. Commissioner Kipf stated upon his first look, and based on properties to either side of the parcel, he thought it could be buildable judging only on what can be visually seen on adjacent properties.

Jim Morgan (Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance) -

Mr. Morgan reported the chloride and brine dust control program is continuing. The first application was completed in many townships and crews are currently working in London Township. Mr. Morgan reported we are about three and a half weeks ahead on the spray patching schedule with chip sealing planned to begin right after the holiday.

Kim LaRocca (Director of Finance) -

Ms. LaRocca reported the Human Resource/Finance seminar went very well. It was great to establish new resources and meet other Finance Directors. The Finance department is training staff as transitions continue. Commissioner Stewart stated discussion have been held on training and he would like to be kept informed of trainings. Ms. LaRocca reported currently, she or someone who has held the position prior, is completing the training of new staff. Additionally, Phil Masserant, previous MCRC Finance Director, will be providing budget training within the next few weeks.

Matthew Snell (Director of Engineering/County Highway Engineer) -

Mr. Snell reported receiving notification a year and a half ago regarding five million dollars which would be received for corridor improvements at Smith and Secor. Since this notification was received, Mannik and Smith was hired to complete a corridor analysis which will detail what improvements are needed. Last week we were notified that the study was completed, the report will be reviewed and the Board kept informed as we move forward. An agreement with the State agency to secure this funding has already been completed. Commissioner Thayer asked if this project covers from the State line to Sterns Road. Mr. Snell reported the study included up to Sterns Road with the initial thought for use of funding is from the state line up to the Secor and Smith intersection. If the funding can be spread up to Sterns to improve the whole corridor, we will do so. However, the study will determine what is needed first. Commissioner Stewart asked about improvements for the Smith and Secor intersection. Mr. Snell reported the area was included as part of the study and the intention is that some of the funding would go towards improvements in the area.

Mr. Snell reported on Hivon Road in response to public comment from Mr. Beaton. A hole in the road was inspected which showed the culvert had failed. The road was then closed, notification was given to Emergency Management, Central Dispatch, and posted to our website. The Drain Commission and Township were contacted to initiate the process of replacing the culvert. At this time, a timeline for the replacement is unknown as it is based on the Drain Commission's contractor and material availability. Commissioner Jacobs stated Mr. Beaton had indicated they moved the barricades. Mr. Leach confirmed and stated barricades were in place and someone had moved them out of the way to drive through the area. For liability reasons, the road can not be plated. As a result of barricades being moved, posts were placed into the ground with type three barricades attached.

Camden Regis (Director of Human Resources) -

Ms. Regis reported several temporary/seasonal and permanent full-time employees beginning within the last few weeks which has us close to being fully staffed. Some temporary/seasonal employees will begin in June when the school year ends. Ms. Regis reported we will be participating in a touch-a-truck event at the 150 year celebration of the Village of Carleton. Commissioner Minton stated it is great that applications are coming in and asked if there is still an employee needed in the engineering department. Ms. Regis confirmed a staff engineer is still needed. Commissioner Thayer stated he fully supports our involvement in the community.

Philip Costello (Legal Counsel) -

Mr. Costello did not have any update to provide on the pending agreement with Ms. Hawkins-Freelain. Our attorney, Andrew Cascini, may be giving a report to the Board in person when it gets to that point. Commissioner Stewart asked if there had been known communication between Mr. Cascini and legal counsel for Ms. Hawkins-Freelain. Mr. Costello confirmed and reported that his last update was that we are waiting on a response from the attorney retained by Ms. Hawkins-Freelain.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT - None

12 COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Jacobs (Member) -

Commissioner Jacobs thanked staff for the birthday card and had nothing further to report.

Commissioner Kipf (Member) -

Commissioner Kipf reported speaking with Mr. Leach and Mr. Snell regarding Allen Cove Road and the potential of poor road conditions when the overpass going into Luna Pier is replaced resulting in increased traffic. They provided a great, professional answer. Commissioner Kipf stated it is very nice to hear we are fully staffed with the exception of one staff engineer that is still needed. It is also great to hearing of ongoing training as well as the positive vibes in these meetings.

Commissioner Thayer (Member) -

Commissioner Thayer reported observing one of our crews that was applying hot patch to the road way. Commissioner Thayer reported not a single person was standing around and all were working. Compliments were given to the crew.

Commissioner Minton (Vice Chairman) -

Commissioner Minton had nothing To report.

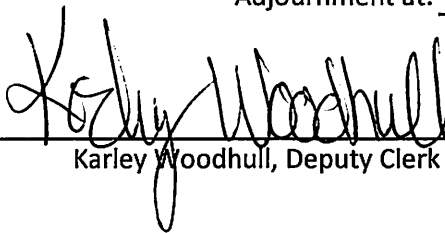
Commissioner Stewart (Chairman) -

Commissioner Stewart had nothing to report.

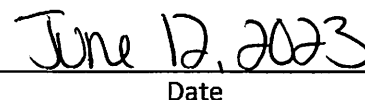
13 ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting with no further objection.

Adjournment at: 2:27 ~~AM~~ PM



Karley Woodhull, Deputy Clerk



Date