

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

August 28, 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:

Jack Thayer	Present
William Kipf	Present
James Jacobs	Present
Danny Minton	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** - None

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

7.1 Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting August 14, 2023

7.2 Journal Entries

Entry No.	Date	Description	Transfer Amount
581	08/16/2023	Payroll Checks 66869 - 66884	\$ 379,322.28
		Advices 36022 - 36120	
		Bank Service Fee July 2023	
		E. Herrero Vacation Payout 66885	
		D. Leach Sick Time Payout 66886	
582	08/16/2023	Vendor Checks 81009 - 81045	\$ 459,558.48
605	08/23/2023	Vendor Checks 81046 - 81085	\$ 119,706.20

7.3 Township Contracts

Township	Project #	Road	Location	Work Type
LaSalle	504.009.230907	Gaynier	Cousino to Border Road	Single Chip Seal
Monroe	504.012.231201	Bacon	Alley	Alley Upgrade
Whiteford	504.015.231515	Piehl	Whiteford to Summerfield	Cross Tile Replacement

7.4 Approve the purchase of a 2023 John Deere 6105E Cab Tractor for \$79,252.04 and a Diamond Mowers 22ft rear cradle boom mower for \$68,647.96 equaling a total of \$147,900.00 from Riesterer & Schnell, Inc. under Sourcewell Ag Tractors contract 110719-JDC (Pg. 1P CG 70).

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**

**9 NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Approve the 5-Year Primary Road Plan for 2023-2027.

Mr. Leach reported presenting the draft five year plan in the last Managing Directors communication. Staff have reviewed the plan and feel confident with what is proposed for approval by the Board tonight. The projects listed for 2024 put us where we need to be with state funding and federal aid levels. Projects listed for 2025 and 2026 are placeholders as we do not know where our funding and assets will be at that time. Mr. Leach reported we have come a long way with passer ratings and we continue to shift/adjust with the rising costs of business.

Commissioner Minton asked if there were any amendments made to the plan presented tonight in comparison to the draft that was provided. Mr. Leach reported there was one road which was missing the fix type which has been corrected on the presented plan.

Commissioner Jacobs asked if this plan addresses the thought of selling federal aid. Mr. Leach reported, when looking at the primary road funding by calendar year, it anticipates selling our 2025 federal aid dollars.

Commissioner Stewart reported this plan is a great tool and marketing piece. It helps people to understand what is going on and that there are things being completed. Staff has coordinated with townships and it is necessary to keep talking about their local road plans. The 5-Year plan has become a very effective tool.

Mr. Leach reported conversations have been held with the Townships about local road plans. Some of the townships do have a plan, others do not have the type of funding needed. Mr. Leach reported we would like to see more of these plans with the townships even though it is known that it is not always affordable. Commissioner Stewart stated plans will change and evolve. Adding that everyone involved in the creation of the plan did a great job.

Moved by Commissioner: Minton Supported by Commissioner: Thayer  
to approve 5-Year Primary Road Plan for 2023-2027 as presented.

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

**10 REPORT OF OFFICERS**

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

Mr. Leach provided a follow up report on the West District salt barn lease. A letter was sent to Visio Clara, LLC. regarding the option to extend the lease an additional five years. We did receive a return mail receipt indicating that they had received our letter. We also asked them to contact us regarding future opportunities.

Mr. Leach reported we received notification that \$3.2 million dollars of federal aid funds for fiscal year 2023 has been obligated and secured.

Mr. Leach provided an update on the Sterns Road project which initially slated the road to be open to traffic tomorrow. Consumers Energy is still in storm recovery mode and power is not active at the traffic light. Contact was made with representatives at Consumers and they are doing their best to get power restored. The contractor has availability to tie into the light as soon as power is restored.

Mr. Leach reported additional signs were posted at the Samaria Road property in Whiteford Township as requested.

Mr. Leach reported attending the active shooter drill last week. Hopefully we never have to use the active shooter plan, but it is good to be prepared. It was a surreal drill and even though what was coming was known, it still hits hard.

Mr. Leach reported on the severe storms which came through the area last week. Our crews worked around the clock and we are very proud of them. They remained in communication with central dispatch and are now in clean up mode. Central Dispatch is very happy with our response. A weather event debriefing is scheduled for tomorrow with Central Dispatch to discuss any improvements that can be made and better the plan for the next event. Mr. Leach again stated, our team did a great job; our men and women were out there in the middle of it all taking care of things. Mr. Leach wished everyone a great Labor Day weekend.

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

Jim Morgan (Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance) -

Mr. Morgan reported our crews were tested over the weekend with the weather. Over six inches of rain fell in a four hour window. Every sign and barricade we had was utilized. We received a short break when the sun came out for about twelve hours then got slammed with the tornado. Mr. Morgan reported our crews were out in both districts around the clock and we are now in clean up mode. Mr. Morgan reported we still remain on schedule and began our second round of dust control in Bedford and Erie Township this week. Everything is running as planned. Commissioner Thayer asked how the heavy rain affected the dust control. Mr. Morgan reported rain in lower volumes is usually not a bad thing for the dust control program. We did not start applications until this week so we are in good shape.

Kim LaRocca (Director of Finance) -

Ms. LaRocca had nothing new to report. Ms. LaRocca provided an update on the budget and stated that final items are being completed. Commissioner Thayer asked about the training status of Finance employees. Ms. LaRocca reported training is ongoing and will take at least one year because various tasks only happen at specific times throughout the year. Additionally, Ms. LaRocca still has the assistance of an outside consultant to utilize as needed.

Camden Regis (Director of Human Resources) -

Ms. Regis echoed comments from Mr. Morgan and Mr. Leach and gave appreciation to crews in the field through the last weather event. Ms. Regis also gave appreciation to our customer service agent, Ms. Tufts, who helped get crews where they needed and maintained storm related spreadsheets. Ms. Regis reported we are still looking to fill the staff engineer position which has been difficult. Ms. Regis reported a good turn out at the last touch a truck event in Milan and also the End of Summer bash event held at the AALC. Positive feedback was received from the community at both events. Additionally, we are gearing up for the paint a plow program. Program information and forms are now on our website so any of the centers and schools can put in their application for the program much easier. Commissioner Thayer asked if the schools know how to engage in the new process. Ms. Regis reported an email with instructions was sent out.

Philip Costello (Legal Counsel) -

Mr. Costello had nothing new to report on any lawsuits.

## 11 PUBLIC COMMENT

Al VanWashenova - Frenchtown Township Supervisor

Mr. VanWashenova gave appreciation to our crews. He shared a humorous phone call from a resident asking why road signs were not out to which he asked if they realized we ran out of signs and every sign is out on the roads. Mr. VanWashenova also commented that Frenchtown is working on their five year local road plan. Thanks was given again to all, and a huge thanks to our crews.

Representative William Bruck

Mr. Bruck commented that the active shooter exercise was an incredible display which included many components within the county. The Road Commission could often be overlooked but it was great to be included as a first response asset. Mr. Bruck reported receiving comments from a citizen who was very impressed with the reporting system we have for road related needs. Additionally, Mr. Bruck stated he has not heard anything bad regarding the County Road Commission lately. Lots of work is going on around the county and people have given their kudos. Mr. Bruck gave appreciation to the phenomenal recovery efforts throughout the county.

**12 COMMISSIONERS COMMENT**

Commissioner Jacobs (Member) -

Commissioner Jacobs thanked the two townships who attend meetings regularly. Appreciation was given for sharing their thoughts as well as to Mr. Bruck for his input. Commissioner Jacobs commented that in looking at the five year plan, he understands why the townships attend as many miles of road are in their territory. Commissioner Jacobs also recognized that that we have a nice new truck on the road and think this week, with all the past rain, we will get to see how the vector truck works.

Commissioner Kipf (Member) -

Commissioner Kipf complimented everyone for our response during and after the storms this past Thursday and Friday. Commissioner Kipf stated that some people wonder why the water hasn't gone away instantly, but after the magnitude of rainfall it should be understood.

Commissioner Thayer (Member) -

Commissioner Thayer echoed Commissioner Jacobs and Kipf's comments. Crews did a great job and we have a great team that knows what needs to be done.

Commissioner Minton (Vice Chairman) -

Commissioner Minton commented that five year plan is one of the best things he has been a part of at the Road Commission. It provides a lot of knowledge to the community. The plan does change a little bit, but for the most part it does stay on track. Commissioner Minton stated he is proud of the document. Appreciation was given to all the staff for the group/team effort in response to the storms.

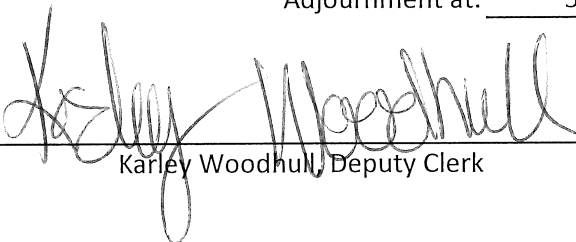
Commissioner Stewart (Chairman) -

Commissioner Stewart reported he has heard about an improvement of workplace attitude and he is sometimes a little leery about a good attitude. Commissioner Stewart stated the big criteria he utilizes is accomplishment which is currently unbelievably good. Commissioner Stewart gave thanks to everyone, adding that good attitude causes real productivity and is also the best place to work in.

**13 ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting with no further objection.

Adjournment at: 5:53pm

  
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Karley Woodhull, Deputy Clerk

Monday, September 11, 2023  
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Date