

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

September 11, 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:

William Kipf	Present
James Jacobs	Present
Danny Minton	Present
Jack Thayer	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 28, 2023

7.2 Journal Entries

Entry No.	Date	Description	Transfer Amount
610	08/30/2023	Payroll Checks 66887 - 66900	\$ 354,008.89
		Advices 36121 - 36218	
		Bank Service Fee Reverse February 2023	
		Voided Check 66640	
611	08/30/2023	Vendor Checks 81086 - 81113	\$ 172,537.08

7.3 Approve the resolution to impose weight limit restrictions on the structure carrying Maxwell Road

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

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

8 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9 **NEW BUSINESS**

10 **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

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

Mr. Leach reported a conversation was held with Mr. John Abbo from Visio Clara, LLC, current owners of the MCRC West District Salt Barn in Summerfield Township. Mr. Leach reported it seemed that they are interested in a lease extension of the salt barn beyond the next five years.

Mr. Leach reported that Ms. LaRocca and team have been working very hard on the 2024 budget. The draft will be shared with the Board via email this afternoon. It will be forthcoming at the next Board meeting for approval. Mr. Leach reported the team feels confident with the budget and urged the Board to contact him with any questions.

Commissioner Thayer gave appreciation to the entire staff for work completed at Sterns and Whiteford Center. Mr. Leach reported it was a very good Federal Aid project to have completed. There was a power supply delay with the project. Consumers Energy initially had power supplied to the traffic light however when a large storm came through, power was lost. Consumers did a good job while still in storm mode of getting the light energized within a few days. Commissioner Thayer stated he is sure once those in South County use the intersection, they will be a bit more forgiving with upcoming projects on Sterns, Secor and Smith Road.

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

Mr. Snell provided updates on Federal Aid paving projects located on Secor Road, Sterns Road and Samaria Road located in Bedford and Whiteford townships. These projects are ongoing and progressing well. The bridge replacement project on Finzel Road in Exeter Township continues to move along after a slight delay after flooding from the recent storm.

Jim Morgan (Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance) -

Mr. Morgan reported our winter five-eight's maintenance schedule will begin on October 2, 2023. Mr. Morgan reported the dust control program is ongoing, finishing Ida Township and moving to LaSalle Township this week. Additionally we are still cleaning up trees in some areas left behind from the storm. Things are moving along well and the new jet truck has been keeping us busy. Commissioner Minton asked if it was early to be transitioning to the five-eight schedule. Mr. Leach reported we typically coordinate the transition with the timing of our benefits fair which is always the first Wednesday in October. Additionally we are losing daylight hours in the morning and we avoid having the crews out in the dark. Mr. Leach reported the first week of October has been our transition point for the last several years.

Kim LaRocca (Director of Finance) -

Ms. LaRocca reported the proposed 2024 budget is now available for public inspection. Any questions can be emailed to Mr. Leach and a response will be generated. Ms. LaRocca reported our purchasing agent submitted a resignation notice last week. We will be starting the process of hiring and training for this role. Commissioner Thayer asked if the resignation was due to an offer of higher compensation elsewhere. Ms. Regis reported it was not. Commissioner Minton asked if an exit interview was completed. Ms. Regis reported the exit interview will be completed closer to the end of employment - at the end of the month.

Camden Regis (Director of Human Resources) -

Ms. Regis reported the purchasing agent position as been posted with the union and will be posted to the outside world on Wednesday. Our current purchasing agent's last day will be September 29, 2023. Ms. Regis reported there are several new avenues being utilized for posting open positions with hopes that we will receive good candidates. Ms. Regis reported she will be attending a career expo with Mr. Snell at the University of Toledo at the end of this month. The expo is held in the morning with open interviews in the afternoon. Our ultimate goal is to find a staff engineer. Ms. Regis reported working on the benefits fair which will be held on Wednesday October 4. Safety shirts will be distributed to all employees this year, next year we will have safety boots. Ms. Regis reported many new vendors this year will be at the benefits fair. Letters will be forthcoming in the mail inviting retirees, commissioners, and current employees. Commissioner Thayer requested a copy of the staff engineer job posting in an effort to spread the word through the engineering community.

Philip Costello (Legal Counsel) -

Mr. Costello provided an update on the Vasek lawsuit which is regarding Forman Road in Erie Township and the request for the court to allow a quiet title. The MCRC abandoned this road segment years ago. Notice was received that the court is going to allow another amendment to the claim allowing the inclusion of all necessary parties. Mainly this would be to include all members of the platt.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Wingate, 10743 S. Stony Creek Road, Carleton MI 48117 -

Mr. Wingate reported having a large family with many children. Mr. Wingate reported they were not aware the home they purchased was in a flood zone. Mr. Wingate reported it is not listed as a flood zone however it has become one with the lack of maintenance on the ditches and culverts. With the last storm, fifty-five (55) inches of water accumulated in his fully finished walk-out basement. The water sat in place for approximately a week with the water in ditches not moving resulting in a complete loss of everything in his basement. South Stony Creek Road is a nice road which is heavily traveled and well maintained, however the ditches and culverts are not maintained at all. Water is unable to drain to the east past the railroad tracks resulting in water backing up onto Mr. Wingate's property creating a complete moat. Mr. Wingate reported down the road at the Wickenheiser's property, there is a culvert which goes across the road leading to Stony Creek to drain water. Mr. Wingate reported if things were working properly, they would not have flooded the way they did. Mr. Wingate stated he wishes to have this expedited to get someone on site. Mr. Wingate reported Chris Stanley has already said that they will be out to look at it, but has not seen anyone yet. Mr. Wingate expressed concerns that with another rainfall, they will end up in the same situation. Mr. Wingate reported he currently has five children displaced while basement repairs are completed and he is hesitant to move forward with repairs until the issues are resolved. Commissioner Stewart recommended Mr. Wingate remain after the Board meeting to have a discussion with staff members.

12 COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Jacobs (Member) - Nothing to report.

Commissioner Kipf (Member) - Nothing to report.

Commissioner Thayer (Member) -

Commissioner Thayer gave appreciation to the crews who completed the project on Sterns Road at Whiteford Center.

Commissioner Minton (Vice Chairman) -

Commissioner Minton stated we have previously spoken about staff here and singled folks out for jobs being well done and everyone working together. It came to his attention that one key person who he has neglected to recognize is Ms. Woodhull. Ms. Woodhull does a fabulous job getting us the information and being part of the team too.

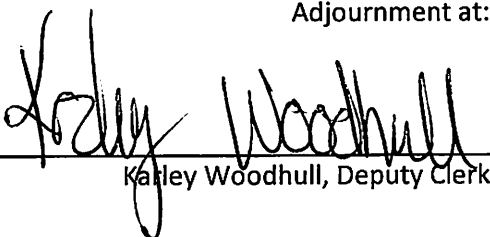
Commissioner Stewart (Chairman) -

Commissioner Stewart wished to clarify his comments from the last meeting stating that when looking at accomplishments, what is seen is the teams have really stepped up to the plate. This should be taken as a positive statement, not negative, and includes Ms. Woodhull.

13 ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting with no further objection.

Adjournment at: 2:19pm



Kayley Woodhull, Deputy Clerk

Monday, September 25, 2023

Date