

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

March 7, 2024 - Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 7th day of March, 2024 at 5:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular session at the Road Commission Administrative Office in Lawrence, Michigan.

PRESENT:

Road Commissioners Askew, Boze, Burleson, Kinney (Remote) and Nelson
Managing Director Bret Witkowski
Finance and Human Resources Director Linnea Rader
Operations Director Greg Brucks
Administrative Assistant-Board Secretary Jill Brien

ABSENT:

None

GUESTS PRESENT:

County Commissioners Doroh and Chappell

Chairman Boze called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Requests to amend the Agenda were received as follows: Add item 10(L), Pension Actuarial Report; delete Award of CR384 project from item 10(B); add item 10(M), W.C. Askew Candidacy.

Motion by Nelson seconded by Askew to approve the amended Agenda.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Askew seconded by Nelson to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented by the Board Secretary.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to first public comment. County Commissioner Doroh advised that the monthly update was not yet available. He also advised that their recent board meeting was very short and most business was to officially make board appointments.

Department Updates were provided as follows:

Finance and HR Department:

- We have wrapped up the year end reporting for 2023. We are now preparing information for the auditor. We anticipate the audit occurring sometime between April and May.
- The trial for Logan Brown, the individual charged in the death of Rene Rangel Jr., concluded last month. Logan Brown was convicted of 2 of the 3 counts. Sentencing will take place April 15, 2024. I am currently accepting letters from employees and Commissioners that Judge Brickley will read prior to sentencing. Please let me know if you'd like to send a letter.
- You'll see the OPEB report in the agenda packet. At the time of preparing the packet we do not have the Pension report but hope to have that information for the Board at the meeting. If not, we will have the pension contribution on the April agenda.

Operations Department:

- Continue to go on and schedule township road tours
- Trees on 380 from Ruggles Rd. to 75th St. continue
- 30th Ave ditching and trees also continue
- Patching, boom mowing and shoulder work ongoing county-wide
- Pipe replacements and deberming will likely begin before our April meeting

Engineering Department:

- CR 380; Ruggles to 76th street bid opening March 7th
- CR 384; SH Twp line to CR 687 bid opening on March 7th
- Bridge submittals to MDOT Local bridge program due April 1. 2024
- Working on Twp estimates

Managing Director Witkowski:

1. The proposed 5-year plan will be brought to you as a board for your consideration. It has fewer projects than the previous five years' plans, but it is realistic; the VBCRC knows what we have for income. As I mentioned, I want to avoid putting you into a bind as commissioner when you attend your township meetings when projects get bumped down and then have to explain why when there is no need to explain it if we are honest with everyone. For example, the project being done this year in Geneva Township was postponed 3-4 years based on the previous five-year plan.
2. I am continuing to meet with local supervisors; the meetings have been positive so far.
3. I met with the engineers at Fishbeck, and installing a well out at the Bangor site would cost **\$434,000**. I asked Nancy at Geneva for her thoughts, and she said Geneva Township would contribute, but they have yet to learn how much.
4. The solar lights for Bangor Township and Wood School have arrived, and installation should start soon.
5. For the CRA conference on **March 19-21**, do we want to go out for dinner again like last year? Update: legislators may not be in session.
6. Based on timing, the bids for a harvest at the Pine Gove pit will be brought to you at your July meeting.
7. The property in Bangor township, where the proposed new facility would go, has 16.2 acres that somebody can farm. We checked with our auditors, and they said we do not need to go out for a bid, so Jill will send out information to all the farmers in the system to see if any of them would like to lease it from the VBCRC.
8. In March, I plan to attend township meetings with you; I need to ensure they know who I am and that I am available. I will attend Covert, Bangor, and Geneva township meetings **in March** with Commissioner Askew.
9. I would ask the board to consider approving ballot language for the 4-year millage that expires in 2024. Based on the comments and discussions I have heard; we request that the millage be renewed at its current rate for four more years. There is a proposed resolution for you to consider for the meeting. The discussion on possible extra mileage went well at the Supervisor meeting; what I gathered from the meeting was if a request was made to the voter that the VBCRC keep it at 1.00 mill or less. Again, these are only suggestions from me.

Witkowski also gave kudos to Linnea for serving as the Interim Manager for the City of Hartford as he believes that working with other communities is beneficial and favorable to all involved.

Review of Vouchers:

Voucher #2349	\$	206,689.95	Accounts Payable
Voucher #2350	\$	179,377.20	Payroll
Voucher #2351	\$	265,087.00	Accounts Payable
TOTAL	\$	651,154.15	

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Burleson to approve the Vouchers totaling \$651,154.15.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Greg Brucks discussed Policy 2006-02, "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" Installation Warrants in the absence of the Highway Engineer. Since 2019 and the departure of the then Engineer-Manager, these signs have been installed at various intersections that do not meet the warrants contained in the Policy, but meet the criteria set forth in the Michigan Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD). It is the recommendation of the Highway Engineer to rescind Policy 2006-02 as the warrants set forth therein are not necessary because the MMUTCD's requirement to utilize "engineering judgment...when conditions are present that are causing or could cause drivers to misinterpret the intersection as an all-way stop" is sufficient.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Askew to RESCIND Policy 2006-02, "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" Sign Installation Warrants, as recommended.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Brucks presented the bid tabulation for Blue Star Mowing which was publicly opened on February 6, 2024. Motion by Askew, seconded by Nelson to accept all bids received with deBest, Inc. as Primary Contractor for 2024 with future consideration by the Board for bids for the years 2025 and 2026, as recommended by Brucks.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Brucks discussed the bids received for heavy maintenance work on CR380/20th Avenue from Ruggles Road to 76th Street in South Haven Township. Motion by Askew, seconded by Burleson to award the bid to Krohn Excavating, LLC at the cost of \$400,546.50, pending approval by South Haven Township for the portion of the project on 20th Avenue from Ruggles Road to Blue Star Highway, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion by Brucks regarding the award by the Board on February 22, 2024 for Motor Fuels. Upon discussing the award with Crystal Flash, they would not accept the award of hauling gasoline only to the Lawrence facility as their prices quoted were "for taking both gasoline and diesel at the same time to the locations". Although Crystal Flash's bid did NOT contain this information, it was Brucks' recommendation to award to the next low bidding contractor, Fleming Brothers Oil. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Askew to award the bid for No Lead Gasoline at the Lawrence Garage to the next lowest bidding contractor, Fleming Brothers Oil, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission due to Crystal Flash's rejection of the award.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Witkowski discussed the expired county-wide road millage with the Board and those present. If a renewal is sought the millage will be reduced from 0.9769 to 0.9721 due to the Headlee rollback. He also discussed the required language included in the millage proposition as it relates to the various taxing authorities in Van Buren County. Motion by Burleson, seconded by Askew to adopt the following Resolution with the caveat that Managing Director Witkowski has the authority to finalize the ballot proposal regarding the various taxing authorities in Van Buren County.

RESOLUTION 2024-04

WHEREAS: The county-wide road millage expired in Van Buren County on December 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS: The county-wide road millage generates revenue for the maintenance, repair and reconstruction of public streets, avenues and roads in Van Buren County, including those located in the Cities of Bangor, Gobles, Hartford, and South Haven, and the Villages of Bloomingdale, Breedsville, Decatur, Lawrence, Lawton, Mattawan, and Paw Paw; and,

WHEREAS: Many road projects are completed by the Van Buren County Road Commission using revenue generated from the county-wide road millage through a selection process that takes into consideration PASER rating, connectivity, asset management, budget constraints, traffic volumes and township priorities; and,

WHEREAS: In addition, millage funds received by the Van Buren County Road Commission are used to leverage Federal and State funds to do larger, more expensive road and bridge projects that it would likely never accomplish without county-wide millage funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County hereby requests that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners direct the County Clerk to place a question on the August 24, 2024 Primary Election Ballot as follows:

Van Buren County Road Millage Renewal Proposal

This proposal will allow Van Buren County to continue to levy 0.9721 mill which was previously approved by the electors to fund road maintenance, repair, and reconstruction but which expired with the 2023 levy.

Shall there be a 0.9721 mill levy (\$0.9721 per \$1,000 dollars) of the taxable value on taxable property in Van Buren County for the next four (4) years (2024-2027) for the purpose of maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of all public streets, avenues, and roads in Van Buren County?

YES
NO

A portion of the revenue collected may be required to be distributed to the Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities established in Van Buren County, City of South Haven, Bangor City, Gobles City, Hartford City, Keeler Township, and the Villages of Lawrence, Lawton, Paw Paw and Mattawan.

It is estimated that the revenue generated on this proposal will be \$3,826,869 in the first year of the levy.

YES: 5
NO: 0

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Witkowski discussed the Road Commission's 2023 extended community outreach for its news release regarding mowing operations. The proposed 2024 News Release was discussed along the proposed manner of publishing. Motion by Askew, seconded by Nelson to approve the News Release and to advertise and post the News Release in the same manner in 2024 as was done in 2023.

YES: 5
NO: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

The 2024 5-year Road Plan was discussed by Rader. Rader explained that the total investment for each year was decreased to better match what is actually able to be accomplished each year instead of the “aggressive” plan previously adopted. Questions were raised and responded to by Rader and Witkowski regarding the plan criteria and specific projects. Motion by Askew, seconded by Nelson to approve the 2024 5-year Road Plan for the Van Buren County Road Commission as presented by Finance and Human Resources Director Rader.

YES: 5
 NO: 0
 MOTION CARRIED.

The proposed line item 2023 budget adjustment was discussed by Rader as it is the Auditors’ instructions to allocate the distributive expense to the various expenditure accounts. The ending available operating fund remains the same as that approved at the end of 2023. Motion by Burleson, seconded by Askew to approve the final, line item only 2023 Operating Budget Adjustment as presented by Finance and Human Resources Director Rader.

2023 December Budget Adjustment

Revenue	December 31, 2023	December 14, 2023	Difference
AOF - January 1, 2023	\$ 9,248,546.54	\$ 9,248,546.54	\$ -
Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF)			
Engineering	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Primary	\$ 6,900,000.00	\$ 6,900,000.00	\$ -
Local	\$ 4,350,000.00	\$ 4,350,000.00	\$ -
Primary Urban	\$ 533,764.67	\$ 533,764.67	\$ -
Local Urban	\$ 227,137.39	\$ 227,137.39	\$ -
Total MTF	<u>\$ 12,020,902.06</u>	<u>\$ 12,020,902.06</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other State Revenue			
State Aid - Snow Funds	\$ 99,900.00	\$ 99,900.00	\$ -
State Aid - Economic Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid - Bridges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid - State D Funds	\$ 126,820.00	\$ 126,820.00	\$ -
State Aid - Other (Safety, Grants, etc)	\$ 111,938.00	\$ 111,938.00	\$ -
Total Other State Funding	<u>\$ 338,658.00</u>	<u>\$ 338,658.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Federal Funds			
Federal Aid - Secondary	\$ 314,000.00	\$ 314,000.00	\$ -
Federal Aid - Safety HRRR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Aid - Bridges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Aid - STP	\$ 1,190,409.36	\$ 1,190,409.36	\$ -
Federal Aid - CMAQ/Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Federal Aid	<u>\$ 1,504,409.36</u>	<u>\$ 1,504,409.36</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Property Taxes			
County Wide Millage	\$ 2,661,214.25	\$ 2,661,214.25	\$ -
County Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Contributions	\$ 6,510,000.00	\$ 6,510,000.00	\$ -
Other Revenues (Interest, Gain on Equip, etc.)	\$ 360,000.00	\$ 360,000.00	\$ -
Total Revenue including AOF	<u><u>\$ 32,643,730.21</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 32,643,730.21</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Expenditure

	December 31, 2023	December 14, 2023	Difference
Heavy Maintenance			
Primary Roads	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 5,400,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
Primary Structures	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Local Roads	\$ 4,300,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Local Structures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Heavy Maintenance	\$ 10,310,000.00	\$ 9,405,500.00	\$ 904,500.00
Maintenance			
Primary Roads			
General Maintenance	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Traffic Services	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Snow & Ice Control	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ -
Special Maintenance Projects	\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 1,965,000.00	\$ 235,000.00
Routine Structure Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Local Roads			\$ -
General Maintenance	\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 500,000.00
Traffic Services	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Snow & Ice Control	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Special Maintenance Projects	\$ 4,100,000.00	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$ 500,000.00
Routine Structure Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Disaster Contingency	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Total Maintenance	\$ 11,380,000.00	\$ 9,855,000.00	\$ 1,525,000.00
Other Expenses			
Administration	\$ 1,970,500.00	\$ 1,550,000.00	\$ 420,500.00
Interest Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Debt Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Capital Outlay	\$ 1,378,704.00	\$ 1,378,704.00	\$ -
Net Equipment Expense	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 800,000.00
Distributive Expense	\$ -	\$ 3,650,000.00	\$ (3,650,000.00)
Adjustments to Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Expenses	\$ 4,649,204.00	\$ 7,078,704.00	\$ (2,429,500.00)
Total Expenditures	\$ 26,339,204.00	\$ 26,339,204.00	\$ -
Operating Fund Balance	\$ 6,304,526.21	\$ 6,304,526.21	\$ -
Total Expenditures & Fund Balance	\$ 32,643,730.21	\$ 32,643,730.21	\$ -

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Rader presented the 2024 Operating Budget Adjustment for consideration by the Board. She discussed various points including adjustments to the anticipated revenues, and maintenance budget increases due to reduction in snow and ice control and increased general maintenance expenditures. Motion by Nelson seconded by Askew to approve the March, 2024 Operating Budget Adjustment as presented by Finance and Human Resources Director Rader.

March 2024 Budget Adjustment**Revenue**

	March 7, 2024	January 1, 2024	Difference
AOF - January 1, 2023	\$ 9,474,299.67	\$ 6,304,526.21	\$ 3,169,773.46
Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF)			
Engineering	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Primary	\$ 7,120,000.00	\$ 7,000,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
Local	\$ 4,450,000.00	\$ 4,400,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Primary Urban	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 540,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

Local Urban	\$ 234,000.00	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Total MTF	\$ 12,364,000.00	\$ 12,180,000.00	\$ 184,000.00

Other State Revenue

State Aid - Snow Funds	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ -
State Aid - Economic Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid - Bridges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid - State D Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Aid - Other (Safety, Grants, etc)	\$ 111,900.00	\$ 111,900.00	\$ -
Total Other State Funding	\$ 206,900.00	\$ 206,900.00	\$ -

Federal Funds

Federal Aid - Secondary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Aid - Safety HRRR	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ -
Federal Aid - Bridges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Aid - STP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Aid - CMAQ/Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Federal Aid	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ -

Property Taxes

County Wide Millage	\$ 2,767,000.00	\$ 2,767,000.00	\$ -
County Appropriation	\$ 1,150,146.86	\$ 1,150,146.86	\$ -
Township Contributions	\$ 3,727,500.00	\$ 3,720,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Other Revenues (Interest, Gain on Equip, etc.)	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 330,000.00	\$ -
Total Revenue including AOF	\$ 30,769,846.53	\$ 27,408,573.07	\$ 3,361,273.46

Expenditure

	March 7, 2024	January 1, 2024	Difference
Heavy Maintenance			
Primary Roads	\$ 4,422,882.50	\$ 4,162,882.50	\$ 260,000.00
Primary Structures	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Local Roads	\$ 2,100,000.00	\$ 2,100,000.00	\$ -
Local Structures	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Total Heavy Maintenance	\$ 6,552,882.50	\$ 6,262,882.50	\$ 290,000.00

Maintenance

Primary Roads			
General Maintenance	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Traffic Services	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
Snow & Ice Control	\$ 782,000.00	\$ 782,000.00	\$ -
Special Maintenance Projects	\$ 2,875,000.00	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ 175,000.00
Routine Structure Maintenance	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 6,100.00	\$ -
Local Roads			\$ -
General Maintenance	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Traffic Services	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Snow & Ice Control	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ -
Special Maintenance Projects	\$ 2,550,000.00	\$ 2,550,000.00	\$ -
Routine Structure Maintenance	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 9,200.00	\$ -
Disaster Contingency	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Total Maintenance	\$ 10,602,300.00	\$ 9,886,300.00	\$ 716,000.00

Other Expenses

Administration	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Debt Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Capital Outlay	\$ 1,580,196.77	\$ 534,000.00	\$ 1,046,196.77
Net Equipment Expense	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -
Distributive Expense	\$ 3,650,000.00	\$ 3,434,000.00	\$ 216,000.00
Adjustments to Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Expenses	\$ 7,130,196.77	\$ 5,568,000.00	\$ 1,562,196.77

Total Expenditures	\$ 24,285,379.27	\$ 21,717,182.50	\$ 2,568,196.77
Operating Fund Balance	\$ 6,484,467.26	\$ 5,691,390.57	\$ 793,076.69
Total Expenditures & Fund Balance	<u>\$ 30,769,846.53</u>	<u>\$ 27,408,573.07</u>	<u>\$ 3,361,273.46</u>

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Rader discussed the proposed Resolutions in support of local bridge funding in the absence of Highway Engineer Anttila. These five bridge projects are being submitted by Engineering staff for possible funding in 2027. Motion by Burleson, seconded by Nelson to adopted the following Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2024-05

WHEREAS: The Board has reviewed the application for Local Bridge Funding for the replacement of the structure that carries 8th Avenue over the Black River in Geneva Township in 2027; and,

WHEREAS: The structure is posted for weight limits of 31/40/40; and,

WHEREAS: The bridge does not meet present day standards for shoulder clearance or traffic lane widths, and the bridge does not provide the safety margins now required by present day design standards; and,

WHEREAS: The current structure restricts the waterway causing scour and erosion issues; and,

WHEREAS: Because of the deterioration of the present structure and its poor rating, a complete replacement would be in the best interest of the traveling public.

WHEREAS: The Geneva Township Board has voiced its support of the replacement of the 8th Avenue structure and, furthermore, the Township Supervisor has given a verbal confirmation to the Van Buren County Road Commission that the Township will be financially committing to the replacement as follows: one-half (½) of the 15% in Local Funds, and one-half (½) of all design engineering and construction engineering.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board concurs in the importance of the replacement of this structure and urges approval of the application for Local Bridge Funding for the structure that carries 8th Avenue over the Black River in Geneva Township.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That plans for said replacement can be ready within 1-year after notification of a successful application.

RESOLUTION 2024-06

WHEREAS: The Board has reviewed the application for Local Bridge Funding for the replacement of the structure that carries 40th Street over the Paw Paw River, in Waverly Township in 2027; and,

WHEREAS: The bridge does not meet present day standards for shoulder clearance or traffic lane widths, and the bridge does not provide the safety margins now required by present day design standards; and,

WHEREAS: The bridge is posted for weight limits of 25/30/40; and,

WHEREAS: Because of the deterioration of the present structure, a full replacement of the structure would be in the best interest of the traveling public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board concurs in the importance of the replacement of this structure and urges approval of the application for Local Bridge Funding for the structure that carries 40th Street over the Paw Paw River in Waverly Township.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That plans for said replacement can be ready within 1-year after notification of a successful application.

RESOLUTION 2024-07

WHEREAS: The Board has reviewed the application for Local Bridge Funding for the replacement of the bridge that carries 2nd Avenue over the Mentha Drain in Pine Grove Township in 2027; and,

WHEREAS: The structure is posted for weight limits of 31/53/67; and,

WHEREAS: The bridge does not meet present day standards for shoulder clearance or traffic lane widths, and the bridge does not provide the safety margins now required by present day design standards; and,

WHEREAS: Because of the deterioration of the present structure a complete replacement would be in the best interest of the traveling public.

WHEREAS: The Pine Grove Township Board has voiced its support of the replacement of the 2nd Avenue structure and, furthermore, the Township Supervisor has given a verbal confirmation to the Van Buren County Road Commission that the Township will be financially committing to the replacement as follows: one-half (½) of the 10% in Local Funds, and one-half (½) of all design engineering and construction engineering.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board concurs in the importance of the replacement of this structure and urges approval of the application for Local Bridge Funding for the structure that carries 2nd Avenue over the Mentha Drain in Pine Grove Township.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That plans for said replacement can be ready within 1-year after notification of a successful application.

RESOLUTION 2024-08

WHEREAS: The Board has reviewed the application for Local Bridge Funding in 2027 for preventative maintenance to the bridge that carries 28th Avenue over the South Branch of the Black River in Arlington Township; and,

WHEREAS: The bridge is in need of a new HMA surface over the deck and waterproofing membrane; and,

WHEREAS: Preventative maintenance work on the structure would be in the best interest of the traveling public as it would prolong the life of the structure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board concurs in the importance of the preventative maintenance on this structure and urges approval of the application for Local Bridge Funding.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That plans for said preventative maintenance can be ready within 120 days after notification of a successful application.

RESOLUTION 2024-09

WHEREAS: The Board has reviewed the application for Local Bridge Funding in 2027 for preventative maintenance to the bridge that carries CR358 over the West Branch of the Paw Paw River in Paw Paw Township; and,

WHEREAS: The bridge requires removal of the hot mix asphalt, installation of a waterproofing membrane, and resurfacing; and,

WHEREAS: Preventative maintenance work on the structure would be in the best interest of the traveling public as it would prolong the life of the structure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board concurs in the importance of the preventative maintenance on this structure and urges approval of the application for Local Bridge Funding.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That plans for said preventative maintenance can be ready within 120 days after notification of a successful application.

YES: 5
NO: 0

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Finance and HR Director Rader discussed the Act 51 Report (FY2023) which is being distributed to the Board UNAUDITED so as to allow time for Board Member review prior to the review and sign-off by the auditor when it will be re-presented to the Board for final approval.

The actuarial report for the VBCRC's Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) was reviewed by Rader for the Board. Rader outlined the VBCRC's progress from 2017 when the OPEB plan was 2.5% funded with a liability of \$14,655,534, to today's plan which is 97.28% funded with a liability of \$3,352,384. Rader outlined the options available to the Board for action. Nelson commented that this is a recognizable accomplishment as it brings the VBCRC into compliance with government accounting standards. Rader added that this compliance was a two-fold gain through aggressive funding by the Board, and through the negotiation with Union staff to cap contributions without effecting anyone's benefits. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Askew to make a contribution of \$320,000 to the Van Buren County Road Commission OPEB Trust for 2024.

YES: 5
NO: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

The Pension Actuarial Report was discussed by Rader. She reported that the VBCRC's fund is very healthy, and based on accrued benefits is currently 109.71% funded. The two options before the Board were set forth by Rader, including the option to take no action until the April 2024 regular meeting. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Boze to approve a contribution of \$484,428 to the Van Buren County Road Commission Pension Plan for 2024.

YES: 5
NO: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Nelson that the Board foster and encourage Commissioner Askew's application to the MCRCSIP Board of Directors Southern Position, and direct that staff render assistance when it may be needed. Motion was seconded by Boze.

YES: 5
NO: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Nelson also shared that he has received glowing reports about the Juneteenth event hosted by Commissioner Askew and his wife. The Board commended their efforts in this regard.

Commissioner Updates and Reports:

W.C. Askew, Sr.

Attended a meeting with Geneva Township Supervisor Whaley with Witkowski last Friday. Motion by Boze, seconded by Nelson to approve a special per diem request by Askew for his attendance at the meeting.

YES: 5
NO: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Rick Boze

Attended Keeler Township on Tuesday. The Township approved various program sheets for special maintenance.

Doug Burleson

Attended Columbia Township on February 20. Attended the Township Supervisors' Meeting on February 27. Attended KATS Policy Committee Meeting on February 28. Attended Pine Grove Township on March 6.

Greg Kinney

Advised that he was remote attending today's meeting from Bronson Commons in Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan.

Wayne Nelson

Discussion regarding sealcoat on 31st Street as it lies in Almena Township and in Pine Grove Township near Paulson Road and the continuity/unity of the multi-township project. Attended a meeting on February 19th with Witkowski and Antwerp Township Supervisor Ruzick regarding the satellite facility. Waiting to receive something in writing from the Township before taking any action. Attended Almena Township on February 21. Attended Township Supervisors' Meeting on February 27th.

Managing Director Witkowski advised that on Wednesday he will meet with the Sheriff and Commissioner Chappell regarding the proposed ORV ordinance. He urged the Board to contact him should there be any roads they wish to exempt. Witkowski thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Managing Director for the past year, and for allowing him the flexibility to coach girls' basketball. The Board voiced its support for Witkowski in his coaching endeavors.

Askew also thanked Witkowski for his support of the Juneteenth play event.

Motion by Boze to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:17 PM.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Board Secretary

Board Chairman