

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

July 13, 2022 - Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 13th day of July, 2022 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, and Kinney
Managing Director Dan Bishop
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Finance and Human Resources Director Linnea Rader
Operations Director Greg Brucks
Administrative Assistant-Board Secretary Jill Brien

GUESTS PRESENT:

Kurt Doroh, County Commissioner
Larry Jarouz
Ronnie Denney
Ted Babak
Nancy Brown
Phil Pitts
Kathy Conley
Zdzislaw Ogradny

Vice-Chairman Askew called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Motion by Boze seconded by Burleson to approve the Agenda.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Kinney seconded by Boze to approve the Minutes of the June 1, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented by the Board Secretary.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting to first public comment. Nancy Brown of 46415 - 44th Avenue, Arlington Township requested that the Road Commission dig out the ditch on the north side of 44th Avenue to the Shaw & Schneider Drain so that the water can go "where it belongs" as she feels there is "unhealthy water" on her property. Bishop obtained Ms. Brown's contact information.

Ted Bobak, 36399 CR681, Arlington Township indicated that he has the same ditch problem indicated by Nancy Brown, and also a problem with the culvert too. Bishop obtained contact information from Mr. Bobak.

Phil Pitts spoke on behalf of the "rest of the group" present as guests of the Board. Mr. Pitts provided some history regarding CR376 from CR681 to CR215, Arlington Township. In 2018, the Road Commission pulverized this section of CR376 along with other roadway sections. Those other sections have since been re-paved, yet there has been no action to re-pave CR376. The Group would like to be on a program list for future bids and would also like to be involved in the "overall plans" for any future work. Bishop discussed possible future plans to prepare the right of way along this stretch for another test segment of double sealcoat. Other concerns were brought by individuals in the Group regarding traffic speeds, grading, dust control, traffic counts, project costs and possibility of paving which were responded to by staff. Commissioner Kinney asked if we could investigate added grading and dust control on CR 376 in Arlington Township. The Board thanked all attendees for their input, and they all exited the meeting.

Dan Bishop provided the Staff Report for the Board as follows:

1. Sealcoat season officially began June 13th. While the sealcoat process requires most of our staff, our operations department continues to complete other maintenance and project needs.
2. The site visits to review other Road Commission facilities have been rescheduled to July 13.

Bishop provided an update for the Board regarding the site visits to other road commissions that took place today. In addition, he provided an update regarding the work being accomplished at the Bangor property site, and the Administrative property site.

The Board also questioned whether a response to Antwerp Township's offer should be prepared. Staff will place this as an agenda item at the next regular meeting of the Board.

The Board also questioned the current Bangor Garage facility and the possibility of selling, which were responded to by Bishop.

Additional discussion was held regarding options for the new Bangor facility as seen during site reviews. Bishop extended an invitation to the Commissioners for viewing other road commission facilities.

3. The next Southwest Council meeting is August 8 at Muskegon. If you wish to go, let Jill know so we can RSVP for lunch.

Bishop discussed the topic which will be "What is a Road", which will also be the topic at the upcoming Township Supervisors' Meeting. Additional discussion was held by the Board and Bishop.

4. CRA held their updated Commissioner handbook training on June 20th. The updated handbook is a wealth of knowledge for Commissioners. A recording of the training will be made available by CRA. We can hold workshop sessions so all Commissioners can review the information together.

Bishop also discussed the vacant Road Commissioner position and the County's application process. County Commissioner Doroh indicated that there have been no applications received to date.

5. The 2021 Annual Report is complete. A hard copy is in your Commissioner trays for the meeting.
6. We have sent a proposed flyer as well as the new commissioners handbook to the County Commission to assist them in advertising the open Road Commissioner position.
7. Enclosed in your packet is an application process for the CRASIF Board of Trustees annual call.
8. As we worked on the proposed policy on cross culverts payment, we have identified other situations that we would like to include in this policy. i.e., a township signed a program sheet for work then declined the project and is refusing to pay our incurred costs.

The Board discussed Item 8 and other situations that have occurred that should also be included in the proposed policy. Additional discussions were held regarding the policies of other road commissions relating to cost-sharing, as well as different approaches used by other road commissions regarding county-wide road millage funds.

The Board also discussed the possibility of coming up with another name for "dust control" as it is a "by product" of its main use, which is to stabilize the road surface by controlling the loss of fines. A change of name would help to educate the public.

The Board then discussed the damaged culvert on 34th Avenue in Pine Grove Township. The Township voted against participating in the project with the Road Commission. The Board requested that the pipe be uncovered, the hole in the culvert sealed up, the road patched, and the barrels removed.

A Voucher update was presented by Managing Director Bishop as follows:

Voucher #2257	\$160,687.52	Payroll
Voucher #2258	\$751,324.56	Accounts Payable
Voucher #2259	\$12,506.76	Accounts Payable
Voucher #2260	\$165,126.59	Payroll
Voucher #2261	\$1,133,240.93	Accounts Payable
Voucher #2262	\$160,099.43	Payroll
Voucher #2263	\$692,176.15	Accounts Payable

Questions were asked by the Board and responded to by staff.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Burleson to approve the Vouchers, as presented.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to mark the MCRSIP 2022 Board of Directors Election ballot for Lester Livermore to serve the at-large position for a three-year term (ending 2025).

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Kinney left the meeting for a brief recess.

Motion by Burleson, seconded by Boze to authorize the Vice-Chairman and the Managing Director/Chief Fiscal Officer to execute MDOT Form 2067, Annual Certification of Employee-related Conditions.

AYES: 3
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Kinney returned to the meeting.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Burleson to award the bid for work on Red Arrow Highway from the Village of Lawrence West to CR681, Lawrence Township to the low bidding contractor, Michigan Paving & Materials, in the amount of \$679,000.00, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Burleson, seconded by Boze to award the bid for Underbody Scraper Blades to all bidding contractors with Michigan CAT as the primary supplier, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to authorize Yerington Brothers' request for a fuel surcharge in the amount of \$0.50 per ton of contract gravel.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Burleson to approve and execute the Coversheet for the plans for the Federal Aid project on CR687 from 90th Avenue South to CR342 (92nd Avenue), Keeler Township.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Updates and Reports:

- Greg Kinney - Attended Waverly Township on 6/2, and on 7/7. Board commented that they "liked the sealcoat". Attended KATS breakfast meeting on 6/29. Attended Decatur Township on 6/9. Attended Arlington Township on 6/15.
- Doug Burleson - Attended Pine Grove Township. Discussions regarding 34th Avenue culvert. Also received a compliment regarding the intersection of 27½ Street at 28th Avenue, Almena Township.

Commissioner Boze requested a Special Per Diem for attending the CRA Commissioner Handbook training on June 20th. He also shared information with the Board from the training. Motion by Askew, seconded by Kinney to approve Boze's request for a Special Per Diem.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

- Rick Boze - Attended Keeler Township on 6/7. Asked when stump removal would take place on CR687. Attended Lawrence Township on 6/9. Attended Hartford Township on 6/9. Attended Hamilton Township on 6/21. Attended Keeler Township on 7/5. Attended Hamilton Township last night. Questions regarding a cost breakdown of the quote for a tree removal on 92nd Avenue. Relayed a service request on CR352 at CR681 where there is a "big branch swinging in the wind". Also relayed a service request from Bill Lawson who indicated that there is a tree on 48th by CR358 that is scheduled for removal, and he would like to know when that is scheduled.
- W.C. Askew, Sr. - Attended Covert Township on 6/14; asked that staff contact George Piggie regarding ditching. Attended Bangor Township; asked that staff contact Mike Sullins regarding several complaints.

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting to second public comment. County Commissioner Doroh relayed that the Broadband Study will be presented to the County Commission at its July 26th meeting. In addition, he relayed that there are currently no candidates for the Road Commissioner vacancy which has been posted.

The Board questioned the status of the project on 30th Street in Almena Township. An update was provided by Highway Engineer Anttila.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Burleson to recess the Regular Meeting to open a regular meeting of the Board of Public Works at 6:38 PM.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Burleson to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:39 PM with all Members present.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Kinney, seconded by Boze to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:39 PM.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.