

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Special Session - Storage-Maintenance Facility, 204 S. Second Street, Lawrence, MI

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 10th day of July, 2019 at 5:30 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in special session in the Storage-Maintenance Facility, Van Buren County Road Commission, Lawrence, Michigan.

PRESENT: Road Commissioners Askew (arrived at 6:16 PM), Boze, Burleson, Kinney, and Moffat
Finance Director Linnea Rader
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Operations Director Greg Brucks
Fleet & Facilities Superintendent Gary Rohacs
Administrative Assistant-Board Secretary Jill Brien

GUESTS: Mike Chappell, County Commissioner
Donald Hanson, County Commissioner
Sandra Hanson
Jean Stein
Dan Faulkner, Village of Lawrence
William VanTassel, Almena Township
Russ Reynnells, Lawrence Township
Tony Millek, Waverly Township
Josh Przygecki, Senator Aric Nesbitt
Steven Rogusta, Village of Breedsville
Nancy Whaley, Geneva Township

Chairman Boze called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

No additions/deletions to the Agenda.

Motion by Burleson, seconded by Moffat to approve the Agenda.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion regarding job advertisement for Managing Director. Kinney requested that the Iosco County Road Commission's job advertisement be copied and utilized by the Van Buren County Road Commission. Moffat would like the ad to let potential applicants know that a preference would be residency, and also a medical exam, drug test, and criminal background check will be part of the hiring process. Burleson felt that 6-8 years of experience seemed excessive.

Moffat felt that there was merit in the Team approach. It has the potential to save money, yet if there are issues about aspects of the Road Commission, this creates a difficulty. Not leaning either way yet.

Kinney is leaning towards hiring a Managing Director at this time.

Burleson is also leaning towards hiring a Managing Director so that one person is accountable, but would like to hear the presentation of the Managing Team.

Discussion regarding P.E. on staff, versus contracting the services.

Presentation by Interim Managing Directors. Discussion provided by Rader, Anttila and Brucks. Answered a variety of questions by the Board.

A brief presentation was held by Rader for those present regarding the See-Click-Fix platform. Staff is hoping to launch the application at the end of August and will hope to have a presentation for the Township Supervisors at their August Township Supervisors' meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the Managing Directors presentation.

(Askew arrived).

Chairman Boze asked Askew what his preference is at this point regarding Team and/or Managing Director. He stated that his Townships are divided currently, but he would like to see the Team stay in place for at least a whole year to see how it goes.

Chairman Boze read a comment from Ron Sefcik, Supervisor of Hartford Township as follows: He cannot make the board meeting tonight due to personal commitments. He would like the Board to know that it is his opinion that a Manager should be hired, and that we should contract out the P.E. work.

Chairman Boze read correspondence from Geneva Township Board which states as follows: The Geneva Township Board has always found that working with the Van Buren County Road Commission has proven to be an asset over the years. Sometimes trying and frustrating but all in all we have been able to maintain the condition of our local and county roads to the best of our ability by promoting and supporting work on all roads. The Geneva Township Board supports hiring a licensed road engineer to run the operation in an on-going manner. If this does not happen then operate with the four positions currently in place that are doing an outstanding job. Utilize a licensed engineer only when the job warrants. We believe that in this manner we could see more of our funds be utilized to fix the roads. Thank you for all considerations.

Chairman Boze read correspondence from Supervisor Donald Stull, Paw Paw Township, as follows: Just a note to let you know I will not be able to attend the Special Session tomorrow. . . I personally like the Team Director approach and would like to see it continue. I'm not sure how many hats you all can try to wear but its working well now. I never had a good feeling about the old style and never had any contact with Larry and I feel that person should be the front man and easy to contact or approach - it's much better now.

The meeting was opened to Public Comment by the Chairman:

Tony Millek has no problem with the Team directive.

Nancy Whaley stated that the team approach is working based upon what she has seen. She feels that if money can be saved to put in the roads, that should be done.

Russ Reynnells states that one year is not enough time to judge a new concept. He is in favor of the Team concept, but feels that it should be given two or three years.

Bill VanTassel stated that he would like to see a single Managing Director.

Don Hanson stated that he believes the Team approach is terrific. There is a possibility to set a precedent for the rest of the state to follow.

Mike Chappell states that he applauds the people who have stepped up and taken on the extra duties of Co-Directors. Feels that Team should continue for a year, or two years for final determination.

Dan Faulkner feels that he's seen positive changes.

Discussion regarding Waste Disposal Policy and Procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM due to fire alarm discharge.

Secretary

Chairman