

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

June 9, 2021 - Special Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 9th day of June, 2021 at 5:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in special session in person and via teleconference pursuant to the local state of emergency declared by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners on January 26, 2021 in an effort to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health and safety of this state and its residents, as well as the Road Commissioners and Road Commission staff.

PRESENT:

Road Commissioners Askew, Boze, Burleson, Hackenberg 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:

None

Chairman Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll call:

Askew: PRESENT - Attending in person.
Boze: PRESENT - Attending in person.
Hackenberg: PRESENT - Attending in person.
Kinney: PRESENT - Attending remotely from the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, MI.
Burleson: PRESENT - Attending in person.

Chairman Burleson read the Special Rules for Remote Meeting: All participating Road Commissioners can vote by phone; all votes must be roll call with Chairman always voting last. All people should identify themselves before they speak. Any participant or listener may record the meeting.

Managing Director Dan Bishop requested that item 5(D) Attestation for Act 51 Report be added to the Agenda.

Motion by Boze seconded by Hackenberg to approve the Agenda, as amended.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burleson: AYE

MOTION CARRIED.

Bishop provided information to the Board regarding two ballots received from the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool (MCRCSIP): one At-Large Ballot to elect one Director for a three-year term; and one Southern Ballot to elect two Directors for three-year terms. After discussion, it was moved by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to mark the Ballots as follows: At-Large Ballot - John Rogers, Kalkaska County Road Commission; Southern Ballot - Doug Fuller, Washtenaw County Road Commission and Tim Haagsma, Kent County Road Commission.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burleson: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Rader discussed the Road Commission's need for a workers' compensation attorney as Miller Canfield does not currently have workers' compensation specialist. Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to appoint Richard Symons of Varnum as workers' compensation counsel for the Van Buren County Road Commission per the June 8, 2021 engagement letter.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burleson: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Bishop addressed the Board regarding a Resolution of financial support received by the Road Commission Board from Geneva Township for milling and paving CR384 from the township line to CR687. Anttila explained the upcoming project on the structure that carries CR384 over the Black River in 2022. Motion by Hackenberg, seconded by Boze to respectfully decline Geneva Township's offer of financial support at this particular time due to the upcoming bridge work.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burleson: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Rader provided discussion regarding the Act 51 Report, which has been approved by Michigan Department of Treasury Auditor, Derek Hall. Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to authorize Chairman Burleson and CFO Bishop to sign the Act 51 Attestation Page.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burleson: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. None was received.

Motion by Hackenberg, seconded by Askew to recess the Special Meeting to open a CLOSED SESSION of the Board for the purpose of considering the purchase of real property at 5:17 PM.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burlison: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to reconvene the Special Meeting of the Board at 5:44 PM with all Members present.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burlison: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Askew to authorize the Managing Director to hire Callander Commercial to act as the buyer's agent, and to negotiate an exclusive option to purchase real property with the following contingencies: 1) acceptable title search; 2) acceptable survey; 3) acceptable environmental phase 1 study; and 4) no opposition from the township. Motion was seconded by Boze.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burlison: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Rader provided information to the Board regarding the upcoming proposed budget adjustment to be presented at the July meeting, at which she will not be present. She stated that Bishop will relay any questions brought by the Board to her upon her return. The Auditor will be in attendance at the Board's August meeting to present the 2020 Audit, as will a representative of 5/3 Bank to present an investment review of the pension.

Bishop reminded the Board of his vacation during the week of June 21st.

Boze discussed a presentation at Hamilton Township's board meeting by a solar company moving into the area to create a solar farm.

Motion by Hackenberg, seconded by Askew to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 5:55 PM.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burlison: AYE
MOTION CARRIED.

Board Secretary

Board Chairman