

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

March 18, 2021 - Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 18th day of March, 2021 at 5:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular session via teleconference pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 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 VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Road Commissioners Askew, Boze, Burleson, Hackenberg and Kinney
Managing Director Dan Bishop
Finance Director Linnea Rader
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Operations Director Greg Brucks
Administrative Assistant-Board Secretary Jill Brien

GUESTS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Kurt Doroh, County Commissioner
Mike Chappell, County Commissioner
Mark Boven, Vineyard Homes

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

Askew: PRESENT - Attending remotely from South Haven Township, Van Buren County, MI.
Boze: PRESENT - Attending remotely from Lawrence Township, Van Buren County, MI.
Hackenberg: PRESENT - Attending remotely from Porter Township, Van Buren County, MI.
Kinney: PRESENT - Attending remotely from the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, MI.
Burleson: PRESENT - Attending remotely from Bloomingdale Township, Van Buren County, MI.

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.

Motion by Boze seconded by Hackenberg to approve the Agenda.

Roll call vote:

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

The Chairman opened the meeting to first public comment. Mark Boven, Vineyard Homes, asked if the certification of the Plat of Edgewood was on the agenda for consideration, which was confirmed by the Board Secretary.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting
- Acceptance of Staff Report by Managing Director with the addition of the following:

16. We will be reviewing the Frost Laws on Monday, March 22nd.

Questions were asked regarding SeeClick Fix and its use by the Van Buren County Road Commission which were responded to by Bishop. Corrections to the Staff Report were also noted by Bishop; items 14 and 15.

- Acceptance of Vouchers approved by Managing Director

Voucher #2189	\$454,507.75
Voucher #2190	\$155,941.74
Voucher #2191	\$196,405.57
Voucher #2192	\$121,530.49

- Acceptance of Commissioner Updates and Reports with the following additions:

Askew: Met with Geneva Township yesterday together with Dan Bishop, Barry Anttila and Greg Brucks.

Boze: Attended Keeler Township on 3/2. Attended Hamilton Township on 3/9. Attended Lawrence Township and Hartford Township on 3/11.

Hackenberg: Report submitted. Bishop provided an update regarding a request for signs on 62nd Street by Antwerp Township Supervisor Ruzick.

Kinney: Attended Arlington Township yesterday. Question regarding Supervisor Koshar's issue on 34th Avenue, which had been reported on SeeClickFix. Contacted Waverly, Decatur and Paw Paw Townships. Decatur Township concerned regarding CR668. Bishop provided details regarding potential project plans. Discussion held regarding Arlington Township's discussions about the decertification of 48th Street. Kinney provided details.

Burleson: No report.

- Acceptance of Finance and Human Resources Director Report with the following additions:

Rader stated that the Van Buren County Road Commission's training program is being recognized across the State. Other agencies are contacting us to request copies of the training program. The apprenticeship program now has three candidates. Other highlights were discussed by Rader including the recognition of the mechanic team for their outstanding efforts, successful management of the permit department by the Permit Officer and Permit Clerk during the busy season of Frost Laws; and the front office staff's successful coverage during the maternity leave of an employee, which has been a great learning experience. Boze also provided compliments regarding the Road Commission's training program featured in the County Road Association of Michigan's Crossroads magazine.

- Acceptance of Pension Plan/Actuarial Reports with the following additions:

Rader provided details regarding the Pension Plan funding. Good decisions have been made by the Board to assist in this sound pension plan funding. Hard copies of the Reports will go out to the Commissioners via US Mail.

- Acceptance of 2021 Operating Budget Update
- Acceptance of Chiropractic Care Update. Additional information was provided by Bishop and Rader regarding this employee benefit. Questions were asked by the Board, which were responded to by Rader.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to accept and approve the items, with additions, on the **Consent Agenda**.

Roll call vote:

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

Anttila and Bishop provided details for the Board regarding the proposed certification of the Plat of Edgewood. The Board asked questions which were responded to by Bishop and Anttila. Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING ROADWAY CONTAINED
WITHIN PLAT OF EDGEWOOD**

2021-05

WHEREAS, the Plat of Edgewood, being a subdivision in part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 21, Town 3 South, Range 13 West, Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as follows:

FROM THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 21, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, MEASURE S89°22'06"E, ALONG THE EAST AND WEST QUARTER LINE OF SAID SECTION, 1326.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUE S89°22'06"E, ALONG SAID EAST AND WEST QUARTER LINE OF SAID SECTION 378.55 FEET; THENCE S00°30'55"W 333.00 FEET; THENCE S89°22'06"E, PARALLEL WITH THE EAST AND WEST QUARTER LINE OF SAID SECTION, 400.00 FEET TO A LINE PREVIOUSLY CALLED 486.7 FEET WEST OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE S00°29'56"W, ALONG SAID LINE, 561.85 FEET TO A LINE PREVIOUSLY CALLED THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 895 FEET OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE N89°21'27"W, ALONG SAID LINE, 778.28 FEET TO A LINE PREVIOUSLY CALLED THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST 1265.40 FEET OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE N00°29'13"E, ALONG SAID LINE, 894.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 12.93 ACRES. THIS PLAT CONSISTS OF 13 LOTS.

WHEREAS, Edgewood Circle lies within the Plat of Edgewood, situated in Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, Edgewood Circle meets the requirements and provisions as set forth in the Van Buren County Road Commission's Road Development Policy, including standards for road right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the soon-to-be residents of the Plat of Edgewood, the motoring public, Antwerp Township, and the Van Buren County Road Commission to certify the roadway, as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following roadway located within the Plat of Edgewood is hereby certified as a county local road: **Edgewood Circle from 62nd Avenue South 823 feet (0.16 mi.) to the cul-de-sac.**

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Van Buren.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be published once each week for three (3) successive weeks in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, a newspaper printed and circulated in the County, and the Affidavit of Publication shall be filed with the Clerk of Van Buren County and the Clerk of Antwerp Township.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burlson: AYE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Operations Director Brucks discussed his recommendation of the award of 22A Contract Gravel Resurfacing for the 2021 season to the as-read low bidding contractors, with the exception of Decatur Township and Porter Township, to be awarded by the Board at a future meeting upon receipt of acceptable gravel test results. Motion by Hackenberg, seconded by Askew to award the bid as follows:

Township / Garage Location	Price Per Ton	Contractor
ALMENA	\$8.84	Yerington Brothers
ARLINGTON	\$8.54	Yerington Brothers
BANGOR TOWNSHIP	\$8.89	Yerington Brothers
BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP	\$9.30	Stoneco of Michigan
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	\$9.34	Stoneco of Michigan
DECATUR TOWNSHIP		To be determined.
GENEVA TOWNSHIP	\$9.25	Stoneco of Michigan
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP	\$7.88	Yerington Brothers
HARTFORD TOWNSHIP	\$8.75	Stoneco of Michigan
KEELER TOWNSHIP	\$8.17	Yerington Brothers
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP	\$7.50	Stoneco of Michigan
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP	\$7.75	Stoneco of Michigan
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP	\$9.25	Stoneco of Michigan
PORTER TOWNSHIP		To be determined.
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP	\$8.75	Stoneco of Michigan
VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMM. (Boudreau Pit)	\$7.24	Yerington Brothers
BANGOR (WESTERN) GARAGE	\$8.99	Yerington Brothers
BLOOMINGDALE GARAGE	\$9.25	R. Smith & Sons

Roll call vote:

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

Managing Director Bishop presented a Sympathy Resolution to the Board for consideration. Roadside Group Leader Jeff Daughtry's recent unexpected passing has deeply saddened the Road Commission Team. Bishop relayed that it would mean a lot to the Road Commission staff, and the family of Jeff Daughtry to remember our fallen family member. Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 2021-06

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of its Roadside Group Leader, Jeffery Daughtry; and,

WHEREAS, Jeff was a valuable and respected Group Leader at the Van Buren County Road Commission coordinating daily activities for work crews relating to tree trimming and removals, mowing, and boom mowing; and,

WHEREAS, as a Group Leader, Jeff was also responsible for winter maintenance, including snow removal and ice control, often working in extreme conditions, exhibiting personal dedication and extraordinary efforts to safeguard the motoring public throughout Van Buren County; and,

WHEREAS, Jeff was a wonderful employee who was more focused on the good of the Road Commission and the motoring citizens than his own benefit. He made many great contributions to the Van Buren County Road Commission and helped it to move forward in numerous ways. His work here will not soon be forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County expresses its profound sorrow, and extends its sincere condolences to Jeff's wife, Sherri, and their family.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE

Boze: AYE

Hackenberg: AYE

Kinney: AYE

Burleson: AYE

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Bishop explained the details of the proposed decertification of a segment of 61st Street in Bangor Township. Attempts to contact Bangor Township have not been successful. Bishop recommended the decertification as the Road Commission cannot provide maintenance on this segment and, therefore, it should be decertified at this time. Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 2021-07

WHEREAS, **61st Street beginning 0.28 mi. South of 24th Avenue, and continuing for 0.17 miles** in Bangor Township appears on the Certification Maps of the Van Buren County Road Commission; however, the middle section of this roadway:

1. Is not constructed to Road Commission standards;
2. Is not used, worked on or maintained by public authorities;
3. Does not exist, and is not currently open to traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that 61st Street, beginning 0.28 mi. South of 24th Avenue and continuing for 0.17 miles in Bangor Township, Van Buren County, Michigan is deleted for Act 51 Transportation funds, as recommended by Staff.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners does not herein relinquish, or in any way abandon the public right of way on 61st Street in Bangor Township, as described above.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE

Boze: AYE

Hackenberg: AYE

Kinney: AYE

Burleson: AYE

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Discussion by Bishop proposing the decertification of a segment of 48th Street in Arlington Township. The Road Commission does not maintain this segment and, therefore, should not receive maintenance funds from the MDOT. Kinney relayed that this matter was discussed during Arlington Township's board meeting where it was conveyed if anything was required of the Township regarding the decertification to let the Supervisor know. Motion by Kinney, seconded by Hackenberg to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 2021-08

WHEREAS, 48th Street from 28th Avenue South 0.60 mi. in Arlington Township appears on the Certification Maps of the Van Buren County Road Commission; however, the roadway:

1. Is not constructed to Road Commission standards;
2. Is not used, worked on or maintained by public authorities;
3. Does not exist, and is not currently open to traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that 48th Street from 28th Avenue South 0.60 mi. in Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan is deleted for Act 51 Transportation funds, as recommended by Staff.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners does not herein relinquish, or in any way abandon the public right of way on 48th Street in Arlington Township, as described above.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE

Boze: AYE

Hackenberg: AYE

Kinney: AYE

Burleson: AYE

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Bishop provided some general history regarding Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB). The State has now mandated that all governmental agencies come up with a plan to be able to afford these benefits. The Van Buren County Road Commission should be proud of the aggressive stance it has taken as it is now 50.9% funded. Rader provided discussion regarding the State's Corrective Action Plan (CAP), and continued advancement in our CAP timeline. Rader recommended that the Board approve a contribution of \$400,000.00 to the Van Buren County Road Commission's OPEB Plan Trust for 2021. Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to approve recommended contribution.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE

Boze: AYE

Hackenberg: AYE

Kinney: AYE

Burleson: AYE

MOTION CARRIED.

Bishop provided discussion regarding the MDOT's bid letting of the Road Commission's project on CR388 from 46th Street to the Bloomingdale Village limits. Motion by Kinney, seconded by Boze to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 2021-09

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Managing Director, Daniel F. Bishop, and the Finance and Human Resources Director of the Van Buren County Road Commission, Linnea Rader, are hereby authorized to execute M.D.O.T. Contract No. 21-5021; Control Section STL 80000; Job Number 206964CON for work as follows:

Hot mix asphalt crush and shape and paving work along County Road 388 from 46th Street to Bloomingdale Village Limits, including trenching, concrete curb and gutter, permanent pavement markings, permanent signing, and slope restoration work.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE
Boze: AYE
Hackenberg: AYE
Kinney: AYE
Burleson: AYE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to recess the Regular Meeting to open a Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works at 5:58 PM.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board at 6:07 PM with all Members present.

Roll call vote:

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

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

Motion by Hackenberg, seconded by Kinney to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:09 PM.

Roll call vote:

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

Board Secretary

Board Chairman