

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Regular Meeting - Administrative Office, Lawrence, Michigan

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 11th day of July, 2018 at 7:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular session in the offices in Lawrence, Michigan.

PRESENT: Road Commissioners Askew, Boze, Brown, Kinney, and Svilpe
Engineer-Manager Lawrence B. Hummel, P.E.
Board Secretary-Finance Director Linnea Rader
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Operations Director Greg Brucks
Administrative Assistant Jill Brien

GUESTS: Attorney Kelly Page
County Commissioner Freestone
County Commissioner Doroh
Dan and Janet Hobart
Fran and Chuck Carpp

Chairman Svilpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

No additions/deletions to the Agenda.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Kinney to approve the Agenda.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Kinney and seconded by Boze to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting as presented by Board Secretary Rader.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. Fran Carpp addressed the Board and those present as it has come to her attention that the Road Commission intends to pulverize CR374 in Lawrence Township and asked if that was true, what were the Road Commission's plans to "fix". Hummel responded that the Board has authorized the crushing and shaping of 9.05 miles of primary roadway with no current plan to pave due to funding. He went on to state that the crush and shape stage is the first step in a process that typically takes 3-4 years to complete with the final paving. Ms. Carpp asked if the Road Commission has seen an increase in funds from the State? Hummel provided information regarding the road funding package which began phasing in additional funding to the Road Commission in 2017, but which does not take full effect until 2021. These additional funds have provided tandem axle trucks, as well as funding for other programs and projects in the County. Hummel stated that the longer the Primary Road system stays in "poor" condition, the more money the Road Commission spends to maintain them through pothole patching, etc. Currently there are 235 miles of Primary Roads in "poor" condition in Van Buren County, and the first step to improve these "poor" rated roads begins with the crush and shape process.

Dan Hobart asked if this was a Township problem as he described a "vast improvement" when traveling into Paw Paw Township. Hummel stated that this is a "statewide problem". Mr. Hobart also asked if when the crushing process begins, are there speed restrictions imposed? Hummel explained the prima facie maximum speed limit is 55 mph which is set legislatively and applies throughout the State.

Rader further explained the Road Commission's need to purchase additional equipment for its operations. In addition, trees are a specific budget line item. The passing of the millage on the ballot in August will obviously help this project, and others to move along more quickly. She stated that a letter would be sent by the Road Commission to all affected residents on roadways the Road Commission intends to crush explaining the process and stages of a typical crush and shape project in Van Buren County.

Commissioner Freestone asked if the rubblized roads would have a higher paving priority if the millage passes? Hummel responded that they would have a higher priority as the Road Commission has an investment of \$50-\$55,000/mi. of crushed/shaped roadway so we do not want to get too far out from that process to begin paving. Rader also stated that other roadways in the County that have been crushed are graded and receive dust control on a regular basis; typically every three to four weeks. Boze advised attendees of the upcoming Public Information Meeting on July 24th from 6-8 PM at the Conference Center in Lawrence.

Rader provided an update for the Board as follows:

- OPEB and Pension Reports filed pursuant to PA 202 of 2017
- Next Board meeting on 7/25 at Conference Center - 5:30 PM Workshop regarding Annual Report, and 7:00 PM Board Meeting
- Large Voucher this evening with payments for liquid asphalt, slag, worker's comp renewal, project/contractor payments, and more gravel.

Moved by Boze, seconded by Kinney to approve the following Road Commission Vouchers:

Voucher #2040	\$90,157.97
Voucher #2041	\$122,417.53
Voucher #2042	\$909,996.63

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boze, and seconded by Commissioner Askew to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: On July 19, 2018, Mark Klinger will retire from his position as a Mechanic/Welder for the Van Buren County Road Commission; and,

WHEREAS: Mark Klinger began his employment with the Van Buren County Road Commission on June 2, 2003 where he remained a dedicated employee for over 15 years; and,

WHEREAS: As a Mechanic/Welder, Mark Klinger performed a variety of repairs to the Road Commission's vehicles and equipment, as well as fabrication and welding of the various units comprising the Road Commission's fleet, for the benefit of the motoring public throughout Van Buren County; and,

WHEREAS: Mark Klinger was a dedicated member of the Road Commission staff who performed his duties and craft with great pride and dedication, and always in the best interest of the citizens of Van Buren County, and the Van Buren County Road Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County recognizes the dedication of Mark Klinger, and wishes Mark and his wife, Debbie, the very best in his retirement years.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Hummel discussed and read to the Board the proposed Engineering Reimbursement Request for the Van Buren County Road Commission to be reimbursed up to \$10,000.00 by the Michigan Department of Transportation for payments to its licensed engineer. Motion by Svilpe, seconded by Askew.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Hummel updated the Board on the award of the Cross-Section Paving bid to Triple E Asphalt, the as-read low bidder, in the amount of \$43,500.00. Brucks indicated that there was a pre-production meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, and the Contractor anticipates commencement the following week with the hope of completing two to three cross-section pavings per day.

The following bids were opened at 7:30 PM:

24th Street from Township line North to 44th Avenue, Alma Township, HMA widening and HMA overlay with 2' gravel shoulders and a cross-pipe replacement:

Rieth-Riley Construction Com.	\$213,932.00
Michigan Paving & Materials	\$153,659.00

34th Avenue between 70th Street and 72nd Street, Covert Township, remove existing structures and place new 12'3" x 4'6" structural plate box culvert:

Hoffman Brothers	\$173,004.70
Brad Thomas Excavating	\$115,775.04
Scott Pavlak Excavating	\$86,250.00

34th Avenue from M-140 to 76th Street, remove existing structure and replace with a 12'3" x 4'6" structural plate box culvert:

Krohn Excavating	\$105,105.00
Compton	\$116,804.00
Hoffman Brothers	\$154,343.70
Brad Thomas Excavating	\$117,150.04
Scott Pavlak Excavating	\$86,200.00

Baseline Road between 70th and 71.50th Street, South Haven Township, remove existing CMP and replace with 72' of 36" concrete pipe:

Compton, Inc.	\$69,760.00
Hoffman Brothers	\$132,070.25
Brad Thomas Excavating	\$76,755.00
Scott Pavlak Excavating	\$36,645.00
Krohn Excavating	\$57,465.00

Motion by Boze, seconded by Svilpe to authorize the Engineer-Manager to award the bids, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission and each respective township, upon tabulation and review by engineering staff.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Legal Issues

Attorney Page reported that he and Hummel have discussed the Road Commission's attempts through Michiana Land Services to acquire right-of-way at the intersection of Red Arrow Highway and CR681, and that he will be assisting with legal action should those attempts fail. Hummel explained the scope of the intersection project, and identified the parcels whereat the Road Commission continues to experience difficulties in acquiring the necessary right-of-way.

Kinney inquired as to the status of the Kincaid lawsuit. Hummel and Page provided an update as of approximately four weeks ago. Road Commission staff is in the process of providing an estimate to move a crosspipe in order to more effectively provide drainage, which will also require an easement from the Bells. Attorney Page will provide a more detailed status update after speaking with Attorney Gary Stewart.

Hummel provided an update regarding the County Commission's Administrative Affairs Committee Meeting which was attended by Rader and Hummel yesterday. The County Commission's Guidelines for Road Commissioner Effective Communications were provided to the County by the Road Commission as a DRAFT with the knowledge that the Road Commissioners would be reviewing them as a line item on the Agenda during

tonight's meeting, and that they would be a working draft and point at which to begin discussions. Some concerns were voiced by the County Commission, in particular with regard to the Road Commissioners attendance at Township meetings with more frequency. County Commissioner Doroh stated that the County is awaiting the final draft from the Road Commission. Hummel discussed that the Road Commission's Guidelines for Attendance / Communication with Township Partners are also referenced in the County Commission's Guidelines for Communication, and that they have not been reviewed by the Board since they were adopted in 2009. The Commissioners discussed that the Road Commission's Guidelines need to be "tweaked" as they are outdated. Other questions and concerns were discussed. Kinney stated that he believed the mission of the Road Commissioners in attending township board meetings should be to improve communication, and not to answer specific administrative questions, and that all Road Commissioners should be united and report in the same manner. Rader provided some history as to Road Commission communications with townships prior to the Guidelines implemented by the County Commission when Road Commission staff used to attend meetings in accordance with specific issues to be discussed at the township meeting. After the County Commission implemented the Guidelines, the townships wanted the Road Commissioners to attend their meetings and not Road Commission staff, thus placing the Road Commissioners in the position of responding and answering questions to which they do not have the knowledge or information to answer. Chairman Svilpe requested that all Commissioners and staff review both the County's Guidelines and the Road Commission's Guidelines for discussion at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Road Commissioner's Township Meeting Attendance Report

From June 20th to present:

Askew: Attended Covert and Bangor Township meetings with Hummel for a millage presentation. Spent time in Covert Township's meeting due to many questions and were then unable to attend Geneva Township's meeting as it was adjourned when they arrived.

Boze: Hamilton Township Supervisor will be contacting Anttila regarding the intersection of 46th Street and 76th Avenue. Reports quite a "dip" on 51st Avenue at Nelson Lake, and also brush near a curve sign on Paw Paw Road that needs to be trimmed.

Burleson: No meetings to report on. 67th South of Baseline, barricade signs need attention. While out on a road tour he met Columbia Township Supervisor, Linda Norton. 57th East of CR681 needs repair work at the "swamp hole"; maybe some concrete millings. 4th Avenue at 57th Street, there is a barrel up now where the end of the tube is "bad"; he believes that if we replace the cross-pipe that the water just south of that location would likely disappear.

Kinney: Attended Waverly Township on July 5. Updated the Board regarding the Public Information Meeting to take place on 7/24. Took a Service Request from Trustee Tony Millek. On CR665 at 37 ½ Street, there is no street sign. Culverts on 36th Avenue, township requesting an update on the estimate, scope, etc. Hummel stated that the scope of the project has not changed since the township was first notified of this culvert failure in 2014. The KATS July 25th meeting was canceled. Went to Paw Paw Township on July 9th. He made an announcement to the Township Board and those present regarding the Public Information Meeting to take place on 7/24. Attended the County Commission meeting on June 26th.

Svilpe: Attended the June 26th County Commission meeting. Reminded staff that the cement on Red Arrow Highway at CR653 still needs to be picked up. Staff advised that this will take a piece of equipment to move. Svilpe also inquired as to the status of the basketball hoop/court that was in the right-of-way on Whitewood Drive. Staff will report back to him regarding status.

Operations Director Report:

- Sealcoat off to a good start. Dealing with some bleeding issues, but close to working it out. Meanwhile will do touch-ups with slag dust. Staff is doing a great job – yesterday sealed close to nine miles.
- First round of Primary and Local road mowing is done as of Tuesday. Primary Road mowing contractor has been put on hold due to performance issues, and the Local Road mowing contractor is finishing out on their behalf.
- Ditching started.

- Bloomingdale, Almena, Pine Grove and Paw Paw Townships all receiving their third round of dust control.
- CR352, dust control to go down again on Monday or Tuesday.

Highway Engineer Barry Anttila reported on the following:

- Paving in Antwerp is complete with the exception of Brownstone and Hunt Road. No shoulders yet. Milling on Saturday in Brownstone.
- Paw Paw Township, 40th Street overlay and gravel are complete.
- 78th Avenue, Decatur Township, base paving and shoulders are complete.
- Two more bid openings next board meeting for projects in Geneva Township.
- Discovered another failed culvert in South Haven Township. Surveying is complete and appears to be approximately 12-20' deep.
- CR687, all paved and shoulders are on. Additional grading still to be accomplished by Contractor.
- CR687 South of Burnett Foods, Federal Aid project, August bid letting.
- CR665 from 60th Avenue to M40, Federal Aid project, August bid letting.
- CR380, surveying complete.
- Brad Thomas will be mobilizing soon to the project on 30th Street at 48th Avenue, Almena Township.

Engineer-Manager Update:

- Service Request monthly activity update by township in Board packet for June 2018.
- Updated Board on attendance at Township/Village/City meetings for millage presentations.
- Received a report from the PAC that millage campaign contributions to date total \$1,300.00.
- Youth Fair booth sign up.
- Welder-Mechanic interviews are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.
- Force Loader updated - purchased and shipping this Friday.
- MCRC SIP Annual Meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. Askew and Hummel are attending.
- Tandem Dumps are here and being serviced.
- DEQ audit of program has taken place and report was received today via email.

Hummel reviewed request by the Village of Bloomingdale for information regarding sealcoat estimate and discussion by Clerk Strong of what he described as a "disconnect". Hummel and Rader provided information to the Board regarding the clerical error that was made when the estimate was drafted, which was discussed with the Village, and the subsequent correction that was made to the estimate. Further, that the Village of Bloomingdale, or any City or Village who signs a Program Sheet for sealcoat is only billed for the cost of the job, and not billed according to the estimate. The estimate is just that: an estimate.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 9:28 PM.

AYES: 5
 NAYS: 0
 MOTION CARRIED.

 Secretary

 Chairman