

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

April 22, 2021 - Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 22nd day of April, 2021 at 5:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular 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:

Mike Chappell, County Commissioner
Kurt Doroh, County Commissioner

Chairman Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Roll call:

Askew: Arrived at 5:17 PM due to technical difficulties. Attending remotely from South Haven Township, Van Buren County, MI.
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.

Chairman Burleson requested that item 7(C), Failed Condition Road Policy, and 7(D), Completion Dates on Contracts, be added to the Agenda.

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

Roll call vote:

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

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

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes of the April 8, 2021 regular meeting
- Acceptance of Staff Reports by Managing Director
- Acceptance of Road Commissioner Reports and Updates, as amended
- Acceptance of Voucher update by Managing Director

Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to accept and approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote:

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

Greg Brucks updated the Board regarding the public bid opening for Plant Mixed Hot Mix Asphalt Patching Material on April 19, 2021. Upon recommendation it was moved by Hackenberg, seconded by Boze to approve all bidders for the 2021 season, with Michigan Paving & Materials as primary supplier, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

Roll call vote:

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

Commissioner Askew arrived during discussions at 5:17 PM.

Chairman Burlison provided a brief introduction to the next agenda item, Health Insurance for Road Commissioners, which was removed as a benefit in 2009 by the County Commissioners. Managing Director Bishop provided additional information including research from the County Road Association of Michigan, as well as information from the Southwestern District Council. Discussion was held regarding the types of plans currently available, costs associated with the plans, as well as other scenarios including a “payment in lieu of” receiving a benefit, which is taxable. Discussions were also held regarding whether Road Commissioners had to take the benefits, if offered. Motion by Kinney to request that the County Board of Commissioners re-authorize health care for the current Road Commissioners, including offering them a choice among the three current plans - the plan for our prior Road Commissioner, and the current two health care plans available to non-union employees, including the choice of vision and/or dental care - without a payment in lieu of the benefit being available if the benefit is not taken by a road commissioner.

Roll call vote:

Askew: NAY
Boze: NAY
Hackenberg: NAY
Kinney: AYE
Burlison: NAY
MOTION NOT CARRIED.

Chairman Burlison offered discussion regarding the Road Commission’s Failed Condition Road Policy (2018-06). Recently Pine Grove Township signed a program sheet to pulverize 18th Avenue funded 100% by the Township. The Board and staff debated when the current policy takes effect. Staff provided a background history of the Policy and its intent, which was for the Road Commission to follow when plans to upgrade a failing road were not taken either by the township or the Road Commission. No board action was taken.

Chairman Burlison lead discussions regarding completion dates written into contracts with the Road Commission. It was the Board’s understanding that asphalt laying jobs were let for bid without a completion date. Rader corrected the Board as there are completion dates in every contract let for bid; however, in an effort to keep job costs more reasonable a completion date towards the end of the season is typically utilized which allows contractors to fit the work into their schedules. Other jobs were discussed by the Board, as well as utilizing more “realistic” completion dates. Also, other scenarios were discussed wherein bids were accepted by the Board which were contingent upon completion dates

other than those set forth in the bidding documents.

Anttila provided an update regarding Rural Task Force funds in the amount of approximately \$314,000 which were tentatively awarded to the Van Buren County Road Commission for work on CR687 in Keeler Township contingent upon final approval in late May at the full region meeting.

The Village of Bloomingdale's project on CR388 (Kalamazoo Street) was discussed by Anttila and the Board, as well as project updates on CR380, and CR374.

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

Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:05 PM.

Roll call vote:

Askew: Absent (technical difficulties)

Boze: AYE

Hackenberg: AYE

Kinney: AYE

Burleson: AYE

MOTION CARRIED.

Board Secretary

Board Chairman