

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

Summary of Proposed Minutes

January 18, 2018

Regular Meeting - Administrative Office, Lawrence, Michigan

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 18th day of January, 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 and Kinney
Engineer-Manager Lawrence B. Hummel, P.E.
Board Secretary-Finance Director Linnea Rader
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Operations Director Greg Brucks

GUESTS: Chip Ray
Attorney Kelly Page
Orville Teeter, Covert Township Resident

ABSENT: Road Commissioner Svilpe

Vice-Chairman Kinney called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Revisions to the order of the Agenda were made. Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to approve the revised Agenda.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2018 meeting as presented by Board Secretary Rader.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED.

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. Orville Teeter, Covert Township resident, wanted to know why his road wasn't plowed over the weekend and the New Year's holiday (48th Avenue between 72nd Street and M140)? He does not understand why all roads are not plowed every day. He was told this is a budget issue, but he wants to know why there isn't enough money for more staff so roads may be plowed every day. The Road Commissioners explained that he should check with his legislators regarding funding. Staff reiterated that the Snow Plow Policy calls for 8" of snow on Local Roads and 4" of snow on Primary Roads for overtime call-in (weekends, after hours, holidays, etc.). Mr. Teeter feels he isn't getting a response that is satisfactory and, therefore, he plans to take it to the State level. He also intends to put up a camera.

Legal Issues

Attorney Page updated the Board on the Show Cause Motion for the Kincaid property issue on Scott Lake. Attorney Stewart will work with staff to get final resolution. If not, they will re-file with the Court.

Engineer-Manager introduced Greg Brucks, Operations Director.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 18-001

WHEREAS: Public Act 51 of 1951, as amended, provides that the Michigan Department of Transportation shall jointly, with the Board of County Road Commissioners, ascertain and fix the total mileage of County Primary Roads and the total mileage of County Local Roads in each county of the state which have been taken over as County Primary and County Local Roads; and,

WHEREAS: In complying with the provisions of said Act, the Michigan Department of Transportation has requested that this Board certify the mileage and location of such roads required by said Act to be fixed and ascertained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Van Buren, Michigan, does hereby certify that all of the roads on which lengths have been entered along the road bands of the attached township and enlarged section maps are normally open to automobile traffic during the months of May through October, and are under the jurisdiction of the Van Buren County Road Commission as follows:

Township	Sheet Numbers	Township	Sheet Numbers
Pine Grove	80-1, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G	Antwerp	80-11, 11B, 11C, 11D, 11E, 11F, 11G, 11H, 11J, 11K, 11L, 11M, 11N, 11P, 11Q, 11R, 11S, 11T, 11U, 11V, 11W, 11X, 11Y, 11Z, 11AA, 11BB, 11CC, 11DD, 11EE, 11FF, 11GG, 11HH, 11JJ, 11KK, 11LL, 11MM, 11NN, 11PP, 11QQ, 11RR, 11SS, 11TT, 11UU, 11VV
Bloomingtondale	80-2, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F	Paw Paw	80-12, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F, 12G, 12H, 12J, 12K, 12L, 12M, 12N, 12P
Columbia	80-3, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H	Lawrence	80-13, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D
Geneva	80-4, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4E, 4F	Hartford	80-14, 14A, 14B, 14C
South Haven	80-5, 5A, 5B, 5C	Porter	80-15, 15A(1-7), 15B(1-2), 15C(1-4), 15D, 15E, 15F
Almena	80-6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E, 6F, 6G, 6H, 6J, 6K, 6L, 6M, 6N	Decatur	80-16, 16A, 16B
Waverly	80-7, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G	Hamilton	80-17, 17A

Arlington	80-8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E	Keeler	80-18, 18A, 18B(1-11), 18C(1-5), 18D, 18E, 18F
Bangor	80-9, 9A, 9B, 9C	Urban	South Haven, Almena, Waverly, Antwerp, Paw Paw, Hartford
Covert	80-10, 10A, 10B		

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Road Commissioner's Township Meeting Attendance Report

From January 4th to present:

Askew: Covert Township, resident, Orville Teeter, was present to complain about snow plowing. South Haven Township, no concerns. Working on a local road millage for 2018. Geneva Township, asked about Snow Plow Policy. Bangor Township, no concerns.

Boze: Lawrence Township, pleased with snow removal. He reported on costs of operations over weekend and holiday. Hamilton Township, pleased with plowing. Hartford Township, pleased with snow removal operations.

Kinney: Decatur Township, he reported that Greg Brucks was the new Operations Director. Township heard from Road Commission on removal of tree on Stapleton Road.

Brown: No meetings.

Highway Engineer Barry Anttila reported on the following:

- Next board meeting we will open bids for Antwerp Township paving and CR376 base course.
- Pine Grove Township, 2nd Avenue and 5th Avenue, work is well underway.
- Covert Township, met with Supervisor Palgen regarding 2018 road program.
- 34th Avenue, Covert Township, still closed. Finalizing survey and working on bid packages.
- 36th Avenue, Waverly Township, still closed. Finalizing survey and working on bid packages.
- Scheduling interviews for Engineering Technician next week.

Engineer-Manager's Update:

- Out of town for the next meeting.
- Southwestern Road Commission Council meeting, February 12th at 10:00 AM, Hastings (Barry County).
- Snow fall update.

Finance Director's Update:

- An offer has been made to a candidate for the Accounting Clerk position. She will begin early February.
- Reviewed a report from Varnum Law (Road Commission's employment law representatives) on workplace issues. The report indicated that the issue has no basis and is not credible.

Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to direct Rader to send a letter to the Complainant and Union Local regarding the legal opinion of the workplace investigation.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED.

Board Secretary-Finance Director Rader provided a review of the operating budgets and operating fund. Still working off 2017 budget until the next MTF check arrives. Expenses are looking good. Finalizing invoices for township project closeouts. Once final close out for 2017 happens, we will adjust the A.O.F. and transition to 2018 budget. MTF for the year is approximately 30% up over last year. Updating several computers for staff.

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

Voucher #2012	\$136,900.91
Voucher #2013	\$214,583.04

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 9:17 PM.

AYES: 4
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED.