

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in regular session at the office in Harbor Springs, October 7, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zulski at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski - Chairman Robert Notestine - Vice Chairman Larry Williams - Member

Staff Present:

Brian Gutowski - Engineer-Manager John Gray - South End Road Foreman
Robert Genson - Equipment Superintendent Shawn Beckman - Project Manager
Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

Guests Present:

James Kargol – Emmet Count Commissioner Alice Conrad – Springvale Township
Gordon Kruskie – Readmond Township John Baker – West Traverse Township
Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Township Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Township
Toni Drier – Emmet County Commissioner Karla Buckmaster - Bear Creek Township
Richard English – Beach Drive Paul Steeno - TV 7 & 4
Bob Wurst - Littlefield Township

MINUTES: It was moved by Larry Williams, seconded by Robert Notestine, to approve the regular session minutes of September 20, 2019.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: The List of Accounts Payable, Voucher No. 1939, checks numbering 46036 through 46089, in the amount of \$426,467.30, was presented for approval. It was moved by Robert Notestine, seconded by Frank Zulski, to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL: Voucher No. 1940 for Payroll No. 20, checks numbering 55168 through 55226, for regular payroll in the amount of \$95,100.78, was presented for approval. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Larry Williams, to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Bids were reviewed for an alternative design and rejected for the Cedar Valley Road Reconstruction Project. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor, notified the Board the township has decided not to complete the project at this time.
- b. Signing the contracts with Bear Creek Township for the Cedar Valley Road Reconstruction Project was not completed as the project has been cancelled.
- c. Gutowski gave an update on the M-68 property stating Godzik contacted the adjacent property owners as they are both interested in the parcel and investigated an estimated value of the property. The parcel size is 66 x 140 for a total of 9,240 sq feet, or .14 acres and is valued at \$1,293.00. Gutowski suggested offering the property for \$2,500. Notestine suggested they authorize Gutowski to negotiate the sale of this property and Zulski agreed. James Kargol, Emmet County Commission, offered comments regarding this parcel and an adjacent land owner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Karla Buckmaster, Bear Creek Township, had several questions regarding a new location for a salt shed and expressed multiple concerns regarding the details of a land swap with the county for services involving Camp Petosega, as well as water drainage issues with the land and the EMS building. Zulski addressed Buckmaster stating that each of the questions was already discussed and covered and the reason for the location is because neighbors didn't want the salt shed located at the first parcel that was investigated and the water issues at this location will be addressed. He went on to state the reason for a new salt shed location is to improve response time on the south end of the county but negotiations and details are not completed yet. Gutowski and Notestine also addressed some of Buckmaster's questions but the project is in the very early stages and many decisions have not yet been made.
- b. Alice Conrad, Springvale Township, stated that people are most appreciative of the work completed on Wildwood Road.

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Bids were reviewed for placing rip-rap along the shore of Lake Michigan to protect Beach Drive. Gutowski offered details on stone removal, permit history, and legal opinion obtained regarding high water damage that occurred on September 14, 2019 on

Beach Drive. Zulski also discussed Act 51 funds, property taxes, current law regarding liability, and access as well as current use of this section of road. Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor, was adamant this road get opened before winter. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Robert Notestine, to award the bid to Spierling Trucking in the amount of \$19,500, pending that negotiations do not fail on who is going to pay with the intent the road commission does not pay.

Roll Call Vote:

Zulski - Aye

Notestine - Aye

Williams - Nay

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT: Gutowski reported the following:

- MERS Annual Meeting was attended last week and their payment system will be adjusted for a rate of return reduction which will take effect in 2021. In 2022, the payment schedule will be adjusted for longevity tables.
- Burt Lake Watershed Meeting with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at Tuscarora Township Hall, Wednesday, October 9, 10-11:00 a.m. for funding for the East Robinson Road branch which will include Robinson Road over the Maple River, Van Road and Douglas Lake Road.
- Little Traverse Leadership Meeting, October 10, Road Commission Office at 8-12:30
- Brine Additive Bids due October 15 to be presented at the October 18 Board Meeting
- Winter Operations Conference at Shanty Creek, October 15-16
- An award from the Superintendents Annual Meeting was presented to Jim Kargol for 29 years of service at the Road Commission
- Safety Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 10

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Beckman reported the following:

- Team Elmer's will be working on Atkins Road with the plan to get it paved this week
- Greenwood Road construction starting today by Rieth-Riley
- State Road construction will resume this week
- Tri County Excavating is completing subcontractor work on Clayton Road
- Continuing to work on invoices and project punch lists as well as MDOT year-end items
- Our crew continues to work on Stutsmanville Road

PERMIT/CAD REPORT: None

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson reported on changing trucks over for winter.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Notestine thanked the crew for all the work on the shoulders and commented how helpful that will be for this winter.

Commissioner Zulski attended the MERS conference and wants to relay information to the rest of the board at a later date. The plan will be to discuss strategies for dealing with unfunded liabilities and other financial issues such as internal containment of project cost overruns and changing contract language to limit our liability, especially bridges.

Zulski inquired on the status of the gravel for Stutsmanville Road and Beckman told him it would be placed next week.

Zulski asked permission to sit down with Gutowski and involved parties to resolve issues on Beach Drive. This was granted with the exception, per Notestine, as long as we don't have to front the money. Zulski replied if the agency does, our attorney may decide to seek treble damages but the hope was to avoid that remedy. Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor, inquired about the awarded bid for Beach Drive and wanted the Board to award the best bid that would insure getting the work done before winter.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: Gray reported maintenance occurring on gravel roads and ditching while there is a break in the weather.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: Distributed Michigan Transportation Funds information as it relates to the amount received this year to date verses last year, as well as a budget expectation for these funds. Kleeman also distributed the August Revenue and Expense Report as compared to budget information and cash balances. Participation at the Career Fair at North Central Michigan College scheduled for Friday, October 18 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. was discussed. Zulski is willing to participate along with our Road Foreman, Shop Superintendent and others. We will plan to have a tandem axle plow truck on site. There was also discussion on the lack of new road funding from the Governor's budget as well as increased costs. While new revenue was received in the past couple of years, costs have increased so significantly that it doesn't seem there has been much gain in the ability to improve road conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Alice Conrad, Springvale Township, inquired if the Shaffer Pit mining is complete and will we reclaim the site. Gutowski stated there may be one more crushing in the future.
- b. Karla Buckmaster, Bear Creek Township, asked about the crushed asphalt status in the Conway Pit. Gutowski commented it is done and relayed how the materials will be used.

- c. James Kargol, Emmet County Commissioner, discussed new road funds versus the previous funding received. Kleeman reviewed the multiple adjustments to MTF that occurred in 2019 that impacted revenue.
- d. Toni Drier, Emmet County Commissioner, commented that she received a thank you card from Judy Conrad and asked it be relayed to Ed Zmikly for being accessible and working with them on Tower Road and being responsive.

With no further business, Commissioner Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

Lisa Kleeman
Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

10-18-19
Date