

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
OF
MECOSTA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NO 1892

The regular meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners was held in their offices in the City of Big Rapids, Michigan on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: John Currie, Van Johnson, Mike Wernette

Members Absent: None

Member Present from Board of County Commissioners: Jerrilynn Strong

Administrative Staff Present: Tim Nestle, Superintendent/Manager and Elizabeth Bramer, Finance Director/Board Secretary

Minutes from February 13, 2018 were approved as written.

Jerrilynn Strong presented funding updates throughout the County and that another ambulance was on the Road.

Kelly Cushway, Green Township Trustee was present and wanted an update on the Spruce Road Bridge and expressed his concerns.

Jackie Fitzgerald, Drain Commissioner was present mainly to observe and listen but did discuss the Blanchard drain and mentioned when a protest assessment would be open to the public. She also discussed a petition on Tonkin drain. She thanked the Board that we will put in a new culvert on 13 mile.

Jim Chapman, Green Township was present to inform the Board of the new developments of the Spruce Road bridge. Plan design, assessments, overall cost, and engineering were all discussed.

At 9:30 a.m. Van Johnson moved and Mike Werenette seconded a motion to open and read the annual bids. Bids to be read and placed on file for the review of the administrative staff and if and when awarded, will be in the best interest of Mecosta County. With a vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Kenn Vredenburg, Austin Township Supervisor was present to discuss the brine program and its effectiveness to improve operations for this upcoming year. He also informed the Board the 4 way stop sign on 170th and 8 mile was voted to not be taken out.

Randy Vetter was present to discuss 21 mile and 160th avenue because of water coming across the road. Suggested trying to do some ditching to channel water.

Elizabeth Bramer reviewed the finances and cash flow with the Board.

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Tim Nestle discussed GSA trucks. At this time a battery quote in the amount of \$3,200 has been received. Van Johnson moved and Mike Wernette seconded a motion to purchase batteries in an amount up to \$3,200. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Tim Nestle went over the 2018 project list. At this time the Board has not approved any projects but will have a determination at the April Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the Morton Township contract for various projects to complete this upcoming year in an estimated amount of \$229,674.68. Van Johnson moved and Mike Wernette seconded a motion to sign the Morton Township contract. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the 2018 Capital Outlay list. Focusing mainly on the new GSA trucks, a shop hoist, and new skid steer. The Board wanted to look at the budget more closely with Finance Director before approving to purchase anything more at this time.

The Board reviewed an estimate for a new repeater for the Morley garage. The recent Remus repeater has been installed and radio communication has improved. Taking that into consideration, Van Johnson moved and Mike Wernette seconded a motion to pay the estimated price of the new repeater of \$7,059.20. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Tim Nestle went over the incident/accident report.

Tim Nestle discussed upcoming conferences and seminars with the Board. Tim Nestle suggested sending three foreman and himself to The Highway Maintenance Conference that takes place on May 2nd, 2018. Board approved. Additionally, the Commissioners Seminar that is from April 15th-17th, 2018 was something that all the Commissioners were interested in attending. The April 17, 2018 board meeting is being changed to Wednesday April 18, 2018. A public notice will be advertised.

Tim Nestle informed the Board that the current township meeting scheduled for April 26, 2018 takes place during the week of the Township Seminar. The Board approved moving the township meeting to sometime this fall. No date has been selected at this time. Notification will be sent out to all the townships of the change.

Tim Nestle requested to start our 4–10 schedule starting April 2nd, 2018. Board approved but suggested working on Fridays so that we do not fall behind on brine and mowing.

Gene Heintzelman, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor discussed the fleet but more specifically on our brine trucks. Also, the Board instructed Gene to have Duane fix the cylinder in the truck that is sitting in the garage so that it can be road ready, if needed.

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Tim Nestle informed the Board that our employee and supervisor union members will be possibly switching unions.

The Board discussed advertising for a Service Technician. Publication will go out this week and the Board will conduct interviews at the next Board meeting on Wednesday April 18th, 2018. Part-time seasonal summer help was also discussed. Advertisement will go out this week with the hiring of up to three people, one for each garage.

Tim Nestle expressed his concerns about the condition of the band saw used in the fabrication and welding department. Van Johnson moved and Mike Wernette seconded a motion to purchase a new band saw for the fabrication and welding department in an amount up to \$2,200. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the vouchers. Van Johnson moved and Mike Wernette seconded a motion to approve the vouchers for 2/27/2018 for payment in the amount of \$37,378.59 and vouchers for 3/20/2018 for payment in the amount of \$387,292.85 as presented. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Elizabeth Bramer discussed the MERS internal estimate for the conversion from a Defined Benefit plan into a Defined Contribution plan. Additionally, she discussed the Teladoc service that we provide to our employees and the survey results. The Board said to go forward in dropping employees who do not use this service effective immediately for next month's billing.

Rick Scheidel from Carlton Equipment was present to discuss leasing and purchasing options for a new Bobcat skid steer and accessories. Van Johnson moved and Mike Wernette seconded a motion to purchase a Bobcat skid steer and accessories that include forks, bucket, broom, power rake, and mulcher from Carlton Equipment in the amount of \$102,237.88. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY

DATE