

MINUTES OF THE BOARD
OF
MECOSTA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NO 1366

The regular meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners was held in their offices in the City of Big Rapids, Michigan on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Randy Maxwell, John Currie, Paul Jefts

Members Absent: None

Member Present from Board of County Commissioners: Jerry Williams

Administrative Staff Present: Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director, Mike Maneke, Superintendent, and Connie Larson, Board Secretary.

Minutes from September 15, 2009 and September 22, 2009 were approved as written.

George Griffin, Chippewa Township Supervisor was present and discussed 80th Avenue and informed the Board that 22 Mile Road looked good. No action required.

Phil Hanford, Mecosta Township discussed the Park Road project with the Board. Mr. Hanford agreed that the trees taken out made it safer, however there is one stump that needed to be looked at for further grinding. Mr. Hanford also conveyed that the Township Board was concerned about the water runoff as the water isn't always off the road. Mike Maneke, Superintendent informed the Board that he would look at stump in question and that there was still some work to be done at the one location. No action required.

Jim McLachlan, Chippewa Township resident was present to discuss the two permits he submitted to the Board. Mr. McLachlan requested to mow and snow plow in the ROW on 100th Avenue and Evergreen. Mr. McLachlan expressed his concern that road improvements that were done on Evergreen weren't being maintained as they should be and would like permission to keep it maintained by mowing and clearing the brush and such if the County can't. Mr. McLachlan also expressed his concern regarding the weekend events held at his ranch and the possible drifting and blowing of snow in which the County does not maintain on overtime. Mr. McLachlan expressed that he would only be looking to snow plow and mow if necessary and was not looking to do it all the time. Board advised Mr McLachlan they would need time to have staff research the requests for liability purposes. Mr. McLachlan also discussed fences in ROW. Board advised him of what the current policy was. No action required.

Ken Vredenburg, Austin Township was given an update on the 180th Avenue and Pierce Road projects from Joyce Kuipers Managing Director and Mike Maneke, Superintendent. Mr. Vredenburg expressed his concern in regards to Pierce Road and the horse buggies going down the road before the pavement has dried. Board was advised that contractor was going to try to give notice prior to paving. Mr. Vredenburg inquired about getting tree branches cut in the ROW for next year. No action required.

Jim Zuern, Big Rapids Township resident and James Carter Surveyor were present to discuss building a road off 14 Mile Road located near the "Bluffs" Sub Division. Mr. Zuern also inquired as to the possibility of it being a County maintained road. Board advised that the road would need to be approved to be built by the Township, and then it would need to be built to County specs including pavement for the road to be maintained by the them. No action required.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director reviewed the 2009 Project list with the Board. Mike Maneke, Superintendent informed the Board that 10 Mile Road and Marywood Drive, Morton Township were done, and that 50th Avenue at M-20 looked good but needs to be cut down 8-10 inches to blend into the parking lot and be flush to the sidewalk. Mr Maneke also recommended they go to the second driveway. Mr. Maneke also informed the Board it would be at least 10 days before paving there as they are waiting for the parking lot to be finished.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director discussed with the board the water problem on M-20 at 60th Avenue along with the ongoing problem at Schrader Creek. No action required.

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Board reviewed the MDOT shut down notice in which involved shutting down the Rest Stop. No action required.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director informed the Board of the following; 1) The gravel settlement was received; 2) Savoy Energy has contacted Reith Riley and they will be fixing 18 Mile Road; 3) The Morrison property closing has been completed; 4) The proposal from Federal Screw to lease the Maple Street Building has been received. The Board reviewed the lease proposed from Federal Screw. John Currie moved and Paul Jefts seconded a motion to extend contract with Federal Screw for the leasing of the Maple Street Building for five years approving the amended amount of \$4,300.00 per month. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Board reviewed the following; 1) ASMRC Annual Meeting information; 2) Bengry encroachment letter, Mike Maneke, Superintendent informed the Board that Mr. Bengry has been moving his fence in and out as needed on the south side at the ditch line; 3) The Chippewa Hills Gas Fund summary and amendment to the agreement. Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment to the Intergovernmental agreement. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Supervisors meeting at 11:15 a.m. present: Jim Johnson, Steve Wernette, Toni Kailing. The Board was updated on maintenance issues. The Board discussed with the Supervisors the priority of maintaining shoulders vs grading gravel roads. Toni Kailing, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor informed the Board that the Grade All is in need of repairs, discussed the quotes on the trucks to convert to 5th wheels for the brine trucks, and discussed mechanics transfer to fill the open truck drivers position at the Remus garage. Board advised to have the service tech do mechanics duties as needed and temporarily pay him mechanics wages until the 60 day trial period has passed. No action required.

Mike Maneke, Superintendent informed the Board that there is some road damage occurring on 5 Mile Road east of M-66 from the contractor's trucks that are hauling the tires from Cole Tire. Mr. Maneke expressed his concern regarding the damage and the unwillingness of the contractor to correct the problems. Jerry Williams, County Commissioner will look into this as the money for the tire removal is a grant run through the County. No action required.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

Mike Maneke, Superintendent and Ed Burch, Engineer informed the Board that the ARRA projects were in progress with Arthur Road being paved this week weather permitting, Pierce Road concrete work to begin this week, and 20 Mile Road paving next week. No action required.

Board reviewed the incident/accident report. No action required.

Board reviewed the request for MERS supplement valuation. No action required.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director discussed the request for employee vacation consideration with the Board. John Currie moved and Paul Jefts seconded a motion to approve payment to employee for unused vacation hours as of employee's anniversary date. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director informed the Board of the following; 1) John Wernette, mechanic signed for the open truck driver's position at the Remus garage and he would begin at Remus on Monday, October 19th with a 60 day trial period; 2) Interviews scheduled for today are for the Big Rapids garage open truck drivers position that occurred from an earlier transfer; 3) The Night Patrol Position has been posted. No action required.

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Board reviewed correspondence. No action required.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director discussed the financials with the Board. Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to approve 2009 Budget Revision #2 and to authorize the Manager/Clerk to adjust and amend the 2009 Budget as needed. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried. Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to approve voucher 9/29/2009 for payment in the amount of \$430.00, voucher 10/5/2009 for payment in the amount of \$95,274.41, and voucher 10/14/2009 for payment in the amount of \$317,738.13 as presented to the Board. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Mike Maneke, Superintendent discussed Calcium Chloride vs Brine for State Highways with the Board. The testing showed they were the same. Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director advised he contact the State to find out what they want for material. No action required.

Mike Maneke, Superintendent discussed with the Board the salt mix in the winter maintenance sand pile. Board advised not to mix salt in the sand until it is stockpiled inside the shed. No action required.

Mike Maneke, Superintendent discussed with the Board the policy for snow removal for this season. Board advised there will be no changes. No action required.

Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director informed the Board of the following; 1) Arbitration for the working foreman grievance is scheduled for Thursday at 10:00 a.m.; 2) Bridge inspections are done but still working on scour analysis; 3) CRASIF meeting next Monday-Thursday. No action required.

At 1:45 p.m. Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal issues. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

At 1:05 p.m. John Currie moved and Paul Jefts seconded a motion to move back into general session. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried.

Interviews were held for the open truck driver's position in the Big Rapids garage as follows:

2:00 p.m. Scott Cole
2:20 p.m. John Wright
2:40 p.m. Chris Teceno
3:00 p.m. David Crago
3:20 p.m. Bob Thomas

Board discussed the applicants for truck driver's position. Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to hire Scott Cole for the truck driver's position to begin as soon as possible. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried. Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to hire Chris Teceno one day later than Scott Cole to fill another truck driver's position. Roll call vote of three (3) yeas, motion carried. Board advised Joyce Kuipers, Managing Director to hire one part time driver for the winter season if necessary.

Art Ranger, Surveyor was present to discuss the results of his research regarding 14 Mile Road and the sub division known as the "Bluffs" for Jim Zuern. Mr. Ranger reported that the Cul-de-sac does touch the county road. No action required.

Art Ranger, Surveyor discussed the 80th Avenue project with the Board. Mr. Ranger recommended for the future that a soil erosion plan be done before any bidding of the job. Mr. Ranger also advised Board that all the stream crossings weren't in place when bid and this particular project is not the norm as there are seven streams that cross in a mile in a half stretch. No action required.

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Paul Jefts moved and John Currie seconded a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the DEQ Notice of Coverage, Act 51 Part 31. Roll call vote of two (2) yeas (Currie, Jefts), one (1) nay (Maxwell), motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY

DATE