

****APPROVED MINUTES****

Mason, Michigan
November 9, 2009

The Board of Ingham County Road Commissioners met for a regular meeting on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Ingham County Road Commission's Austin E. Cavanaugh Administration Building located at 301 N. Bush Street, Mason, Michigan.

Present: Joseph A. Guenther, Chair, Shirley M. Rodgers, Vice Chair, James G. Dravenstatt-Moceri, Member, Thomas M. Mitchell, Member, and Norman L. Gear, Member.

Also Present: William M. Conklin, Managing Director, Deborah L. Bellows, Secretary to the Board, Tina M. Henry, Director of Finance, James M. Benjamin, Director of Operations, and Robert H. Peterson, Director of Engineering.

Chair Guenther called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSENT AGENDA.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that the following items be approved under consent:

- A. Agenda Item #5, minutes.
- B. Agenda Item #6, routine permits.
- C. Agenda Item #8A, accounts payable.
- D. Agenda Item #9A, emergency repairs to equipment.

5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 – Minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that the minutes of the meetings of October 12 and 26, 2009, be approved as presented. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 – Permits.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that routine permits be approved as follows:

09-0478	09-0479	09-0480	09-0481	09-0482	09-0485
09-0486	09-0487	09-0488	09-0490	09-0483	09-0484
09-0489	09-0492				

5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8A – Accounts Payable.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that the accounts payable for the two week period of October 11-25, 2009, be approved as follows: check numbers #94023 through #94098, totaling \$792,172.13. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9A – Emergency Repairs to Equipment.

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE CAT LOADER ASSIGNED TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

RESOLUTION #092-09

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell. 5 yes, 0 no. Resolution carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Director of Operations and prior authorization of the Chair, the Board confirms the emergency repairs to the Cat loader assigned to the Eastern District in the amount of up to and not exceeding, \$11,000.00.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORTS.

A. Mr. Conklin reviewed information received from the County Treasurer regarding the low interest bonding program through the county utilizing stimulus funds. Mr. Conklin stated the Board had originally talked about using the bonding program to advance construct a few bridges in the county that are in dire need of replacement, which are on the critical bridge list and have been turned in to the state for funding. So far, it looks like only the Willoughby Road bridge has been selected for funding in 2012. However, getting this type of project ready for an advance construct, would be very time consuming depending on how quickly it can be designed. The Treasurer said that for the cost of the bond counsel, the administrative fees involved, and the interest rate, this is probably too short a time frame to work with for any type of bridge replacement project. The project should be a larger, more expensive project, with a longer term. The set up charges would be somewhere between \$40,000 and \$100,000 depending on the size of the project. Mr. Conklin said that one full construction season is needed for design.

Chair Guenther stated if the Road Commission is looking for a short term loan from summer 2011 to fall 2011, maybe we would be better off getting into a short term note of some kind. Commissioner Rodgers stated at that meeting of October 12, staff talked about the need for a roof on the Eastern District Garage building, and other needs. Perhaps capital outlay projects could be considered for the bonding program.

Mr. Conklin said that in general, the county is looking for projects of \$2-4 million over a ten year pay off period. The Columbia Road Bridge replacement could be considered for this program, but it hasn't been approved for local bridge funding, and it cannot receive federal reimbursement if constructed prior to being approved for federal funding.

Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri asked the cost to replace the Columbia Road bridge. Director of Engineering Bob Peterson stated close to \$2 million. The Dobie Road bridge is being done in 2010 and its cost is estimated at \$1.8 million. The Hagadorn Road bridge that we did a few years ago was \$3 million, but that was for six lanes. Commissioner Mitchell stated many years ago, the Road Commission took out a rather large bond and paved many miles of primary roads. Maybe we could consider something like that again. Mr. Conklin stated a wish list of primary roads in need of resurfacing already exists and a list of projects for bond funding could easily be put together.

The Board suggested possibly doing some local roads too. Staff was directed to speak with townships to see if there is an interest in sharing in the cost of the bond repayment for a large local road improvement program. Also run it by Treasurer Schertzing.

B. Mr. Conklin stated the preliminary 2010 budget had been placed on the table. He asked that the commissioners review it over the next two weeks. This would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion. Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any highlights that needed to be pointed out. Mr. Conklin said there are some major assumptions for the 2010 budget. In order to balance the budget, he needed to cut \$1.5 million of expenditures relative to 2009.

Mr. Conklin said he is looking at no local road program for 2010, up to ten position attritions including not filling the Secretary to the Board position, no equipment purchases, winter maintenance services being reduced, and no long term debt. He stated that health care costs and a \$450,000 drain assessment cost are expenses reflected in the draft 2010 budget document.

Chair Guenther stated that he assumed some of those position attritions are AFSCME positions through possible retirements. He indicated that we cannot continue not filling those positions. The safety of the public comes first and we need to look at other areas. He suggested each department head be thinking about restructuring plans. Chair Guenther stated he could not stress strongly enough the need to keep the level of service where it is now and not reduce those numbers any more, indicating that safety of the motoring public is first and foremost, and those trucks need to be on the roads. Board members agreed.

C. Mr. Conklin stated that Secretary to the Board Debbie Bellows has submitted her retirement notice.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – FINAL PAY ESTIMATES.

Director of Engineering Bob Peterson reviewed his recommendation for approval of the Final Pay Estimate and Acceptance Report for Proposal #1533 and Proposal #1541. He stated these are to close out the 2008 local road paving projects, and by approving them, it will release the retainage.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINAL PAY ESTIMATE AND ACCEPTANCE REPORT FOR PROPOSAL #1533 AND PROPOSAL #1541 TO CLOSE OUT THE 2008 LOCAL ROAD PAVING PROGRAM.

RESOLUTION #093-09

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri. 5 yes, 0 no. Resolution carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Director of Engineering, the Board approves the following Final Pay Estimate and Acceptance Reports:

- A. Proposal #1533 for the 2008 Local Road Paving Program. Contractor: Michigan Paving and Materials. Contract Amount: \$108,071.45. Final Amount: \$105,517.72.
- B. Proposal #1541 for the 2008 Local Road Paving Program. Contractor: Tom's Advanced Paving Company. Contract Amount: \$52,049.00. Final Amount: \$43,279.74.

AGENDA ITEM #11 – CLOSED SESSION.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that the Board enter closed session at 6:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending labor contract negotiations with its Labor Counsel, Peter A. Cohl. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Guenther, yes, Commissioner Rodgers, yes, Commissioner Mitchell, yes, Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri, yes, Commissioner Gear, yes. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Mitchell and Supported by Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri, that the Board return to open session at 7:40 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Guenther, yes, Commissioner Rodgers, yes, Commissioner Mitchell, yes, Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri, yes, Commissioner Gear, yes. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – BOARD UPDATES/COMMENTS.

- A. Chair Guenther thanked staff and Board members for all of the kindness and support shown him during the illness and recent death of his long time companion, Connie Hearit.

No public comment was offered. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Joseph A. Guenther, Chair

Deborah L. Bellows, Secretary to the Board