

## **\*\*APPROVED MINUTES\*\***

Mason, Michigan  
October 12, 2009

The Board of Ingham County Road Commissioners met for a regular meeting on Monday, October 12, 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, Member, Thomas M. Mitchell, Member, and Norman L. Gear, Member.

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

Others Present: Robin D. Wilcox, AFSCME Local 1499 President and Western District employee, William L. Comstock, Western District employee, and Daniel J. Chapman, OPEIU Local 512 Assistant Chief Steward and Engineering Department employee.

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

### AGENDA ITEM #4 – LATE ITEMS.

Chair Guenther stated that earlier today the Managing Director had requested a late item to the agenda for the purpose of discussing health care issues and the proposals recently received for health care insurance for 2010. He stated that this would not be discussed at this meeting and asked Board members if they could attend a special meeting on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to review the proposals. Chair Guenther also requested that Stephanie Barnhart be present at the meeting to discuss the health care options available and provide the Board with her recommendation for health care. Board members agreed to a special meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss health care proposals.

### AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSENT AGENDA.

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

- A. Agenda Item #5, minutes.
- B. Agenda Item #6A-D, routine and special permits.
- C. Agenda Item #8A-B, accounts payable.
- D. Agenda Item #8C, 2008 Annual Financial Report.

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 August 17, 2009, and September 14, 2009, be approved as presented. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6A-D – Routine and Special Permits.

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

09-0396	09-0403	09-0404	09-0405	09-0406	09-0410
09-0411	09-0413	09-0414	09-0416	09-0421	09-0422
09-0423	09-0426	09-0427	09-0428	09-0429	09-0432
09-0437	09-0438	09-0439	09-0441	09-0444	09-0446
09-0447	09-0448	09-0449	09-0450	09-0407	09-0408
09-0409	09-0412	09-0415	09-0419	09-0420	09-0424
09-0425	09-0433	09-0434	09-0435	09-0436	09-0442
09-0443	09-0445				

Permit #09-0417 applied for by Haslett Public Schools for the purpose of conducting the Haslett High School homecoming parade held on October 9, 2009, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Permit #09-0418 applied for by Okemos High School for the purpose of conducting the Okemos High School homecoming parade to be held on October 16, 2009, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Permit #09-0430 applied for by Holt High School Student Council for the purpose of conducting the Holt High School homecoming parade held on October 2, 2009, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Permit #09-00431 applied for by Webberville Community Schools for the purpose of conducting the Webberville High School homecoming parade held on October 2, 2009, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8A and B – Accounts Payable.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that the accounts payable be approved as follows: for the two week period of August 31-September 13, 2009, check numbers #93762 through #93845, totaling \$181,338.60; and for the two week period of September 14-27, 2009, check numbers #93847 through #93939, totaling \$488,491.88. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #8C – 2008 Annual Financial Report.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that upon recommendation of the Director of Finance, the Board approves the 2008 annual Financial Report and authorizes its release to MDOT and for placement on the Road Commission's web site. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORTS.

A. The October 2009 Newsletter was reviewed with the Board. Commissioner Mitchell asked staff to double check the number of permits mentioned in the article about the Permits Department. Mr. Conklin said he would have the numbers verified. Chair Guenther said he expects that other departments and individuals will be showcased in future Newsletters. Mr. Conklin stated that is the current plan.

B. The Road Commission is hosting the next Quarterly meeting of the Ingham County Chapter of the Michigan Townships' Association on October 28, 2009.

C. Mr. Conklin reported he has been contacted by the Ingham County Treasurer regarding the availability of low interest bonds utilizing Stimulus funds and inquiring if the Road Commission would be interested. He stated that with funding levels low and declining, he would not recommend assuming any debt right now; however, he assured the Treasurer that he would discuss it with the Board. Mr. Conklin stated that if the Board is interested since these are such low interest rates for these bonds, a new roof is needed on the Eastern District Garage. The estimated cost for that is about \$180,000. We are looking at trying to fund this project in 2010 or 2011. Expansion of the Western District Garage facility and the construction of a pole barn has also been discussed.

Chair Guenther asked if we were to fix a couple of our critical bridges, ones that are either closed or down to one lane, could we recoup the money and pay off the debt early? Commissioner Rodgers asked if certain bridges were fixed through the bonding process, would future bridge money still be available and could that money be used to pay off the debt?

Mr. Conklin stated any bridges approved this year would be for 2012 funding. Director of Engineering Bob Peterson stated that certainly bridges could be repaired/replaced now using the advance construct system, and then the year that the bridge is approved for funding, the money could be used to pay off the bonding debt. Chair Guenther said he would like to do the Columbia Road Bridge over the Grand River located between the two Waverly Roads, if it is approved for federal funding. He said he thought this would be a good candidate since it encompasses two counties and two school districts. Mr. Conklin stated we would know more in early November as to what will be funded for 2012. Possibly the Willoughby Road Bridge, which is currently closed, may also get approval for funding.

Chair Guenther directed staff to inform the Treasurer that the Road Commission may be interested in the low interest bond program if one or more bridges are approved for federal funding. He also asked that staff meet with the Treasurer to get more information on the bonding program. Mr. Conklin said we would probably need about two million dollars per bridge. Commissioner Rodgers said she thought the county had about 20 million dollars available through the program. Chair Guenther directed staff to inquire about the availability of two to four million dollars for the Road Commission.

AGENDA ITEM #9A – PURCHASE OF TWO TRACTOR MOWERS.

Director of Operations Jim Benjamin recommended the purchase of two John Deere two-wheel drive tractors from D&G Equipment Company through MIDEAL. The total cost for two tractors is \$83,909.46. These are replacements for current tractors. Mr. Benjamin said that four of our five mower tractors are simply worn out and need to be replaced. Commissioner Rodgers asked if the side mower attachments are a separate additional cost. Mr. Benjamin said yes, those will be bid under separate ICRC proposal on

October 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Conklin stated the total budgeted for these items is \$120,000.00. Commissioner Dravenstatt-Mocerri asked if the Road Commission could lease a backhoe with the option to purchase. Mr. Benjamin said yes, he has looked in to that and we can get either a three or five year lease.

Mr. Benjamin also updated the Board on the Columbia Road bridge repairs.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO JOHN DEERE TRACTOR MOWERS.

RESOLUTION #082-09

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

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Director of Operations, the Board authorizes the purchase of two John Deere two-wheel drive tractors from D&G Equipment Company through the MIDEAL program with the State of Michigan. The total purchase price is \$83,909.46.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – OUT OF STATE TRAVEL.

Director of Engineering Bob Peterson requested authorization for the Design Engineer to attend a course on *Effective Concrete Bridge Repair* at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OUT OF STATE TRAVEL.

RESOLUTION #083-09

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 Engineering, the Board authorizes out of state travel for the Design Engineer to attend a course on *Effective Concrete Bridge Repair* at the University of Wisconsin in Madison from October 18 through October 21, 2009.

AGENDA ITEM #11B-D – ASMRC BALLOTS.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Mitchell, that the Board votes for Orrin Gregg of Lenawee County Road Commission for the Director to serve on the County Road Association Board of Directors for a one year term (2010). 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Mitchell and Supported by Commissioner Gear, that the Board votes in favor of the proposed language for the Constitution Amendment to Article VIII-Dues of the Association's By-Laws. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Mitchell and Supported by Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri, that the Board casts its ballot for election of directors for two year terms to the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions. Commissioner votes shall be cast for Robert Powers of Cass County and David VanderKooi of Ottawa County, and staff votes shall be case for Kenneth Straub of Jackson County and Joseph Pulver of Clinton County. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #11E – LOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT WITH WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP.

Managing Director Bill Conklin recommended approval of the Local Road Agreement with White Oak Township for improvements on Kendrick Road. Commissioner Rodgers stated she noticed language has been stricken from paragraph #2 of the Agreement. She said she does not agree with striking language that took so much time to agree on after meetings with township officials and where the townships all agreed to the language. Mr. Conklin explained that the type of work being done will not incur any engineering labor charges, that is why he agreed with the Township's request to strike the language. Commissioner Rodgers asked what if something unusual happened that required engineering charges? What then? Mr. Conklin stated it would be rare. Commissioner Rodgers said she is concerned with changing something after it has been agreed upon by the Road Commission and the Townships. This could start a chain reaction.

Mr. Conklin stated that engineering labor costs would not be incurred on this type of project where it is simply placing a gravel surface. There is no engineering involved. Commissioner Mitchell said he knows the Township Supervisor and he probably feels very strongly about having language in an Agreement that doesn't pertain to their situation. He said he trusts the judgment of the Director of Operations and does not have a problem approving the Agreement with the language stricken. Commissioner Rodgers said she doesn't like making exceptions.

Chair Guenther stated for the betterment of the county and the working relationship with the Township, it would be best to move this along and get the project done. He said he did not have a problem making an exception since there are no engineering labor costs involved in a gravel job. Mr. Conklin said this project consist solely of spreading a gravel surface. There are no engineering labor costs involved.

RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT WITH WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP.

RESOLUTION #084-09

Moved by Commissioner Mitchell and Supported by Commissioner Gear. Commissioner Guenther, yes, Commissioner Rodgers, no, Commissioner Mitchell, yes, Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri, yes, Commissioner Gear, yes. 4 yes, 1 no. Resolution carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Managing Director, the Board approves a Local Road Agreement with White Oak Township for improvements on Kendrick Road.

AGENDA ITEM #11F – LOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT WITH ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP.

Managing Director Bill Conklin recommended approval of a Local Road Agreement with Onondaga Township for improvements on Crain Road.

RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT WITH ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP.

RESOLUTION #085-09

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

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Managing Director, the Board approves a Local Road Agreement with Onondaga Township for improvements on Crain Road.

AGENDA ITEM #11G – LOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT WITH LEROY TOWNSHIP.

Managing Director Bill Conklin recommended approval of a Local Road Agreement with Leroy Township for improvements on Douglas Street.

RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL ROAD AGREEMENT WITH LEROY TOWNSHIP.

RESOLUTION #086-09

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

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Managing Director, the Board approves a Local Road Agreement with Leroy Township for improvements on Douglas Street.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – COMMISSIONER COMMENTS.

A. Chair Guenther thanked staff on the wonderful job choosing the plaque and wording for the memorial for Tom Doyle. He said he thinks it is a fantastic way to memorialize him. He also said the luncheon held on September 29<sup>th</sup> was very nice.

No public comment was offered. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

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Joseph A. Guenther, Chair

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Deborah L. Bellows, Board Secretary