

Mason, Michigan

March 15, 2010

The Board of Ingham County Road Commissioners met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 15, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the 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, David E. Francis, Deputy Secretary to the Board, Tina M. Henry, Finance Director, James M. Benjamin, Director of Operations, and Robert H. Peterson, Director of Engineering.

Others Present: Dale E. Arnett, former Eastern District Supervisor (ICRC), Will Comstock, Western District employee (ICRC), Daniel J. Troia, Design Engineer (ICRC).

AGENDA ITEM #4 – LATE ITEMS/DELETIONS/CONSENT ITEMS.

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 and Special Permits.
- C. Agenda Item #10A, Declaration of surplus 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 meeting of February 15, 2010 be approved as presented. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously

Agenda Item #6 – Routine and Special Permits.

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

10-0070	10-0071	10-0090	10-0091	10-0092	10-0093
10-0094	10-0068	10-0069	10-0072	10-0073	10-0074
10-0075	10-0076	10-0077	10-0078	10-0079	10-0080
10-0081	10-0082	10-0083	10-0084	10-0085	10-0086
10-0087	10-0088	10-0089			

5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #10A – Declaration of Surplus Equipment.

RESOLUTION APPROVING DECLARATION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT.

RESOLUTION #028-10

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, the board approves the following as surplus equipment:

2002 Chevy Impala	2002 Chevy Impala	(2) New 8' cargo beds
1997 New Holland tractor w/side mower	1991 Ford Tractor w/side mower	1960 Karry Crane
1996 1-Ton 2/3 yard dump Truck w/675 broom and Western Snowplow	1996 Tandem dump Truck w/scrapper	Curb Machine
(6) Grader Rims 18.4 x 4x26	(8) 11R24.5 Pilot Wheels w/tires	

AGENDA ITEM #7 – MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORTS.

A. The Board was updated on the status of railroad quiet zones. Director Conklin stated that he made contact with the railroad section of MDOT who directed him to the Federal Railroad administration website. Mr. Conklin stated forms can be filled out on the website to apply for each railroad crossing in Meridian Township to become a quiet zone if they are below the required national average risk threshold. Mr. Conklin stated there is a calculation to see if each individual railroad crossing would qualify. Commissioner Rodgers stated she would like the resident who inquired about this to be updated.

B. Director Conklin informed the Board that the Noble Road bridge, between Meech Road and Dietz Road located in Leroy Township, needs to be and has been closed to traffic. Mr. Conklin stated he was notified by the bridge inspector that the bridge had deteriorated to a point that it needed to be closed. Mr. Conklin stated all the appropriate notifications will be made to emergency service providers and the public. Mr. Conklin stated the bridge inspector did indicate that it may be possible to do repairs to the bridge which staff will look into. Mr. Conklin also indicated that federal and state local bridge program funds have been applied for to replace this bridge.

C. Director Conklin updated the Board on the replacement of recently retired Clare Piepkow (Class 7-Mechanic). Mr. Conklin stated Martanga (Ree) Baker was recalled to his previous position. Mr. Conklin stated an employee from the eastern garage did apply for the Class 7, but stated he preferred to take the position only if he be assigned to the Eastern garage. Mr. Conklin stated that was turned down based on the posting being for the Mason garage. Mr. Conklin said it had been discussed whether having a mechanic

at the Eastern garage was worthwhile. Mr. Conklin stated he and Director of Operations Jim Benjamin determined that there could be efficiencies and cost savings by having a mechanic at the Eastern garage. Thus, a Letter of Understanding was drafted with AFSME to have a mechanic position assigned to the Eastern garage on a trial basis to evaluate if this would be more efficient. Commissioner Rodgers stated she had safety concerns and does not want any employee working in an unsafe work environment. Mr. Conklin stated safety has been an area that has been discussed and is something staff will need to keep an eye on. Commissioner Rodgers stated she was not in favor of hoist work being done by a mechanic who is working alone.

Operations Director Jim Benjamin stated there are safety jack stands and hoist work would be kept at a minimum. Mr. Benjamin stated occasionally mechanics do get assigned to work an entire day out at the Eastern garage alone. Mr. Benjamin stated there will be less transferring of vehicles to and from the Mason garage with a mechanic assigned to the Eastern garage. Mr. Benjamin stated a Letter of Understanding is in place that allows the termination of the temporary transfer at any time. Mr. Benjamin stated a mechanic and service truck currently averages 2-3 days per week at the Eastern garage servicing vehicles.

Commissioner Mitchell stated in the past there was a full time mechanic assigned to the Eastern garage. Commissioner Mitchell stated he was concerned about the productivity level. Commissioner Mitchell stated, however, there is a positive side to having a mechanic readily available to address minor issues.

Chair Guenther stated he also has a safety concern of a mechanic working alone. He stated working out of the Mason garage allows employees to respond in a timely manner in case of an emergency.

Director Conklin stated he believes efficiency can be increased by having a mechanic on duty at the Eastern garage and the amount of time it takes to transfer vehicles back and forth between the two garages is unproductive time. Chair Guenther stated that the transfer should be done on a trial basis and be evaluated to determine if it is safe and efficient. Mr. Conklin stated the Letter of Understanding is for up to one year and that at any time, for any reason, can be revoked. Chair Guenther stated safety and productivity are two key issues. Chair Guenther stated a mechanic position was approved at a previous Board meeting and that he would like the Board to be updated on the Eastern mechanic position.

D. Director Conklin gave a brief update on the recent Lansing State Journal letters and John Schneider column. Mr. Conklin stated at some point a response should be made to set the record straight about inaccuracies in these articles. Mr. Conklin stated the price of the Weighmaster trucks listed in one of the letters was incorrect. Mr. Conklin stated the vehicles are currently being used by supervisors who are patrolling. Mr. Conklin stated the same letter questioned the recent purchase of two mowers. Mr. Conklin stated the two old mowers were past economical operation and maintenance. Chair Guenther stated that we should not respond directly to these articles. Commissioner Rodgers stated she feels we have an obligation to share information with the public in a proactive way but not in response to negative letters from the newspaper.

#### Agenda Item #9 – Accounts Payable.

Commissioner Mitchell stated he had noticed that there is not as much detail in the reports as he is used to seeing. Chair Guenther instructed Finance Director Tina Henry to follow up with Commissioner Mitchell to see if a more detailed report can be provided.

Moved by Commissioner Mitchell and Supported by Commissioner Rodgers, that the accounts payable for the two week period of February 15-28, 2010, totaling \$476,143.86, be approved. 5 yes, 0 no. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #11A – Google Fiber-to-Home.

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR GOOGLE FIBER-TO-HOME.

RESOLUTION #029-10

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

WHEREAS, Ingham County Road Commission recognizes the need for expansion of broadband internet access in the Greater Lansing Region; and,

WHEREAS, the East Lansing Technology Innovation Center, University Research Corridor, local economic development corporations, and other initiatives have helped to foster a growing entrepreneurial technology sector; and,

WHEREAS, Google's open-access high-speed network will provide service up to 100 times faster than existing broadband service; and,

WHEREAS, Google's open-access high-speed network will allow existing local providers to fully utilize new fiber-optic infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, local access to high-speed fiber optic service will retain and attract growing technology businesses to Greater Lansing, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Ingham County Road Commission supports the efforts of local communities to bring "Google Fiber for Communities" to the Greater Lansing Region.

Agenda Item #8 – Closed Session.

Moved by Commissioner Rodgers and Supported by Commissioner Dravenstatt-Moceri, that the Board enter closed session at 6:55 p.m. with its legal counsel, George Brookover to discuss the pending assessment appeal on the Cook and Thorburn Drain. 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.

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:58 P.M.

Agenda Item #12 – Board updates/comments.

A. Commissioner Rodgers asked Mr. Conklin for to give an update on the pending civil rights complaints. Commissioner Rodgers asked Mr. Conklin if the temporary transfer of Mr. Francis had been completed. Mr. Conklin informed the Board that OPEIU has declined the recalls and that supervisors have been coordinating with area businesses to avoid having overweight trucks and watching for overweight trucks. Mr. Conklin stated he was unable to follow up with Mr. Kluck, the attorney assigned to the Road Commission's defense on the civil rights cases, but would report the status of the pending civil rights cases to the Board.

B. Commissioner Rodgers recognized Robert H. Peterson, Director of Engineering, for receiving an award from the County Road Association of Michigan. Commissioner Rodgers stated how honored the Board is that he was recognized and how much the Board appreciates the work he does with the state wide organization.

D. Commissioner Mitchell asked what action the supervisors are taking when they see an overweight vehicle in violation of the law. Mr. Conklin responded they have not had to do anything yet.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT.

A. Will Comstock, Western District employee (ICRC), stated he was displeased that only one garage was notified about the plaque dedication for Thomas Doyle.

No further public comment was offered. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Joseph A. Guenther, Chair

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David E. Francis, Deputy Board Secretary