

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Newaygo County was called to order by Chairman Gonyon at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at the road commission offices.

Commissioners present: William Gonyon, Douglas Harmon, and Lee Fetterley
Staff present: Derek Wawsczyk, Manager and Kerry Hewitt, Clerk
Others present: Kelly Smith, Consultant

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 26, 2024. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve the following vendor checks, ach vendor payments, and payroll checks:

July 3, 2024

Vendor checks # 65381 - # 65403 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 13705 - # 13739 in the amount of \$1,576,078.75 and Payroll checks # 59782 - # 59798 in the amount of \$163,383.99.

Public Comment: none

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, budget reports, the MVHF comparison spreadsheet, fuel savings spreadsheet through June, and an updated township project spreadsheet.

Kerry reported that we have received our MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report for 2023. Discussions regarding the OPEB liability and monthly contributions to the MERS retirement plan took place. Motion was made by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to increase the monthly contribution to the MERS Retirement to \$50,000 a month with the additional money to be deposited into our surplus division. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry informed the board that she and Derek met with Paradigm and Newaygo Insurance yesterday to continue to explore insurance options. Next week we will be meeting with Brown and Brown and Acrisure.

Derek informed the board that he will be attending the Small Urban meeting in Fremont later today.

Derek informed the board that he will be meeting with the railroad tomorrow at the 14 Mile Rd. west of M-37 crossing. They are looking at upgrading the signals, stop bars and signs. The improvements will be like what they said they would be doing at the 136th St. location. Derek will confirm that the 136th St. project is still on track for this year.

Derek reported that he received correspondence from CRA regarding permit fees. Every 5 years permit fees can be increased by 10%. Derek will review their recommendations and report back at our next meeting. If permit fee changes are recommended, they would go into effect on October 1st.

Derek reported that Truck and Trailer will be hosting a training event on September 10th – 12th to train on the new Rex Roth controllers. Derek plans to send a couple of mechanics.

Derek informed the board that Mike has submitted the EGLE permits for 40th St. at Bigelow Creek, and on Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. We have not received either of the final permits.

Derek reported that we will be sending a truck over for the Kids Expo Event at the baby food festival next week Wednesday. We will also participate in the baby food festival parade on Saturday. We had a truck in the Hesperia 4th of July parade and passed out candy. We will also participate in the Kids Day Event in August that White Cloud hosts.

Derek informed the board that he has received an agreement with the Ottawa Conservation District to spray for invasive Japanese Knotweed. Derek plans to sign and return the agreement as we have done in the past.

Derek reported that the Governor has signed SB 465 that requires motorists to stay back at least 200 ft. from an active snowplow when moving and at least 20 ft. behind when stopped.

Derek informed the board that we have received the 2025 Local Grade Crossing Surface Program and Call for Projects. Last year we submitted S. Green Ave. near W. Lake Dr. and E. Monroe St. near Sycamore Ave. Neither were selected based on lack of funding for the program in our area. We plan to resubmit these two locations again, along with the Fitzgerald Ave. and 60th St. crossing.

Derek reported that the line painting company has begun work on our first round of pavement markings. Derek has also been collaborating with him on the new pavement markings in the City Limits of White Cloud for the change and accommodation of the on-street parking.

Derek informed the board that the restroom at the High Rollaway roadside park was installed. We will be working on the concrete work that MDOT wants done there as well.

Derek provided a construction update.

Derek reported that the M-37 skip paving is scheduled for July 22nd.

Derek informed the board that he has a meeting tomorrow with Consumers Energy on Beech Ave. to discuss the erosion issue at the guardrail section near 16th St.

Public Comment: Kelly Smith informed the board that he has contacted the Conservation Resource Alliance to see if they are interested in a partnership to help fund the new structure on Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. Kelly also mentioned that he met on-site with property owners on Beech Ave. near the campground for their upcoming project. He has been trying to find a feasible place for the trees and stumps.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Harmon informed the board that they are waiting for Lilley Township to set a meeting date to discuss the Pettibone Park property. Commissioner Harmon mentioned that he met with a few of the foundation members to show and discuss the marina improvement project. Derek mentioned that he is still waiting for Nick to provide him with a map of the designated bird watching locations.

Commissioner Gonyon inquired if we still have an agreement with the surrounding counties to help in the event of natural disasters, like the storms that hit Muskegon County last week. Derek confirmed that we have an active agreement in place.

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk