

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Newaygo County was called to order by the Clerk, Kerry Hewitt at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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

Kerry asked for nominations for Road Commission Chairman. Commissioner Harmon made a motion to nominate Commissioner Gonyon for Chairman, supported by Commissioner Fetterley. No other nominations were made for Chairman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry turned the meeting over to Chairman Gonyon. Commissioner Gonyon asked for nominations for Road Commission Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Fetterley made a motion to nominate Commissioner Harmon for Vice-Chairman, supported by Commissioner Gonyon. No other nominations were made for Vice-Chairman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to set the date of the February Board meeting to February 12, 2025, and to hold future board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 8 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 9, 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:

December 20, 2024:

Vendor checks # 65726 - # 65749 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14145 - # 14180 in the amount of \$161,325.63 and Payroll checks # 59977 - # 59993 in the amount of \$128,285.40.

January 3, 2025:

Vendor checks # 65750 - # 65773 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14181 - # 14208 in the amount of \$327,988.22 and Payroll checks # 59994 - # 60010 in the amount of \$162,772.82.

January 20, 2025:

Vendor checks # 65774 - # 65796 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14209 - # 14238 in the amount of \$498,239.05 and Payroll checks # 60011 - # 60027 in the amount of \$140,422.90.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Award Bid: Two model year “new” cab and chassis units

Derek informed the board that he had reviewed both bid documents that were submitted. Derek noted that DK’s bid did not provide the Allison transmission. Upon further discussions, it was presented that a 3rd cab & chassis unit could be added to the bid at the same specs. and cost as the two that were bid. This would provide another unit before the 2027 emission changes. Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to accept management’s recommendation and award bid for three cab & chassis units to Stoops Western Star of Michigan. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, MVHF Comparison, budget reports, and fuel savings through December.

Kerry presented the board with the following contracts from **Garfield Township:**

Bassetta St., Grade and Re-Dolomite

60th St. between Ferris Ave. and Gordon Ave., Grade and Re-Dolomite spot locations.

Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve and sign the above-mentioned contracts with Garfield Township. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry presented the board with the information for the annual Highway Conference in Lansing on March 25th – 27th.

Derek informed the board that he has been working with Mike and Kelly towards a complete bid package for the 40th St. Trout Unlimited stream crossing culvert upgrade project. In addition to that project, they have been working on the bid package for the Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. bridge failure location. Derek presented a proposal from Fleis and Vandenbrink for the engineering and design from start to finish for the 13 Mile Rd. location, which is \$38,800. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to accept management’s recommendation and authorize the manager to sign the proposal for engineering services with Fleis and Vandenbrink at a price not to exceed \$38,800 for the engineering services for the Elm Ave. bridge project. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that we received a request to extend the 2024 bid prices for Pavement Marking with Michigan Pavement Markings. Derek informed the board that he and Mike reviewed site locations and compared the Regular Dry applications with the Waterborne applications, along with comparison between PK Contracting and Michigan Pavement Markings. Derek concluded that the differences are not significant enough to go through the rebidding process and chance an increase in price. Motion made by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to accept management’s recommendation and extend the 2024 bid prices for Pavement Markings with Michigan Pavement Markings. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that The Dalton’s have offered to extend pricing for the 2025 roadside spraying. This will be the last year eligible for extending. Derek mentioned that we have been able to spot spray and maintain the area’s that we brush hog. Derek continues to be pleased with The Dalton’s and the roadside spraying program. Motion made by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to accept management’s recommendation and extend the current bid with The Dalton’s for the 2025 season. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that we have an opportunity to utilize the sale of our 2025 fed aid to chip seal old M-20 from M-37 to the east county line. Derek noted that we will reserve the 2026 and 2027 for the Hardy Dam road project. Derek mentioned that old M-20 from 48th St. to M-37 will be chip sealed this year as a carryover from last year. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to accept management's recommendation and utilize the sale of our 2025 fed aid to chip seal Old M-20 from M-37 to the east county line. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek presented other primary paving locations. The board had no objections to moving forward with the presented projects.

Derek informed the board that Mike is writing estimates for Sherman, Garfield, and Ashland Townships. Derek will continue to attend township meetings and connect with the new Township Supervisor's. He was asked to attend Garfield Township's road committee meeting in April, and they asked if Justin, their area foreman, could attend as well.

Derek informed the board that he and Mike attended an MDOT meeting in Cadillac on Tuesday the 14th. He obtained a map of future MDOT projects. Derek noted that M-37 between White Cloud and Newaygo is still slated for 2028.

Derek reported that he and Mike had a zoom, introductory meeting with Flies and Vandenbrink regarding the timeline and work to be performed at the new County Marnia on Hardy Dam.

Derek informed the board that Michigan Cat has presented a proposal for a new 265 track steer for \$80,000. Derek mentioned that he was warned that prices are slated to increase 20% after January. Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to accept management's recommendation and authorize the manager to sign the proposal for the new 265 track steer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that the work continues at Guthrie Pit crushing concrete and asphalt. We have wrapped up the black dirt screening. Derek will be meeting with MHK later today to discuss weekly rental rates. Derek noted that MHK's customer service has been top notch.

Derek reported that Jerry Byrne with the Kent County Road Commission sent an email around inquiring about Road Commissioners' salaries within our region. Derek is working with the County Administrator on hopefully setting up raises that are more automatic and not requested.

Derek presented the updated ACT51 Urban Certification cover sheet for Chairman Gonyon to sign. The board had no objections and Chairman Gonyon signed the cover sheet.

Derek informed the board of an incident on Monday with Cory Nelson, owner of CJN Custom Homes. He continues to work in the right-of-way without obtaining permits, even though it has been brought to his attention multiple times. On Monday, he had a subcontractor working in the road on Pickeral Lake Dr. The road was closed with a crane setting trusses. Our plow truck had to back out. Discussion took place, and the board recommended having our legal counsel draft a letter, that they will sign, informing Mr. Nelson of the MCL requiring permits while working in the road right-of-way, and the liability he is creating for himself. Kerry will contact our attorney.

Public Comment: Kelly Smith indicated that all he wanted to touch base on has been discussed. He mentioned it would be nice if we could get the USFS to donate to the bridge on Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Harmon mentioned the Marina project is moving forward with Fleis and Vandenbrink doing the Engineering. EGLE informed them they have 90 days plus 20 for the permit. They are hopeful to have the permit by May.

Commissioner Harmon said Lilley Township is moving forward with the acquisition of Pettibone Park. It is possible they could take possession as early as March.

Commissioner Harmon inquired about the "50 car pile-up" that was reported last month. Derek mentioned a Dollar General semi-truck could not make the hill and bumped into a few vehicles. It was clear that the media had misleading headlines, and it was sanded and cleaned up within an hour.

Commissioner Gonyon reported that he has received two phone calls, praising the Newaygo County Road Commission on the excellent job of cleaning up the intersections and getting out there so early in the mornings.

Commissioner Gonyon inquired about the fatal on M-37 and M-82 that happened in December.

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk