

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 24, 2024, at the road commission offices.

Commissioners present: William Gonyon, Douglas Harmon, and Lee Fetterley
Staff present: Derek Wawczyk, Manager and Kerry Hewitt, Clerk
Others present: Gary Timmer, UAW

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 10, 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 18, 2024

Vendor checks # 65404 - # 65432 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 13740 - # 13773 in the amount of \$395,447.68 and Payroll checks # 59799 - # 59815 in the amount of \$120,863.93.

Public Comment: Gary Timmer said the lines were recently painted on his road and expressed his appreciation.

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, the MVHF comparison spreadsheet, and an updated township project spreadsheet.

Kerry informed the board that she met with Jennfier Martin with Brown & Brown regarding health insurance. Jennifer Martin had previously worked with 44North/Acrisure for over 20 years. Kerry and Derek also met with Jennifer Wanstead with Acrisure to go over our renewal rates for 2024/2025. There is a 9% increase, but we will remain under the PA152 hardcaps.

Kerry informed the board that if we switched our life, short & long-term disability carrier from Unum to Kansas City, we would see an annual savings of over \$19,000. Commissioner Gonyon requested a quote from our current carrier to see if they would lower their rates.

Kerry informed the board that she has decided to take any proceeds from our annual golf outing and start a scholarship program. She hopes to offer a scholarship to one graduating senior to help towards obtaining their CDL. She contacted the Fremont Area Community Foundation and was informed that \$25,000 is required to start the program.

Kerry informed the board that the next Paul Bunyan meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2024.

Derek informed the board that the pre-construction meeting for the federal aid chip seal program is scheduled right after the board meeting today.

Derek informed the board that we have received the EGLE permit for the next Bigelow Stream crossing on 40th St.

Derek reported that the failed bridge on Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. has been removed. EGLE has been on-site and approved what was done up to this point. EGLE is requiring a bridge replacement. Derek will be contacting Trout Unlimited and USFS to see if they would be willing to help with the funding.

Derek reported that he and Mike met the railroad and MDOT at the 14 Mile Rd. crossing. They had to perform a site visit due to an earlier accident at this location. All parties agreed that there are plenty of signs and visibility to not warrant any changes at this location. They are moving forward with the upgrades on 136th St., and yet to have the work completed this fall. Derek mentioned the Green Ave. and Lake Dr. crossing. They are willing to help with the ride quality at this location without having to submit the crossing through the local grade crossing surface program. A lot of that funding has been shifted to the southeast side of the state anyway.

Derek reported that he has contacted Brass Mar Wells to replace the bladder tank here at the facility. The bladder tank is old and outdated. Derek fears that it will fail soon. He is waiting for their quote.

Derek reported that he was contacted by EGLE regarding the old gas station at 120th St. and Spruce Ave. Derek had to sign an agreement acknowledging that there may be contaminants under the roadway and that we do not have any plans to abandon the road, nor do we plan to make any changes.

Derek reported that Fleis and Vandenbrink have completed the EGLE permit for the Spruce Ave. north of 1 Mile Rd. project. This location was selected in 2021 under the critical bridge program and was slated for 2024 construction. This project has been delayed a year, but Derek informed the board that there will be a general information meeting on August 14th.

Derek informed the board that he plans to attend the Aug. 12th Managers' luncheon in Cadillac.

Derek informed the board that he will be attending the Everett Township meeting in August. The Everett Township board has questions on the seasonal section of Summer Ave. north of 40th St. that was completed this year.

Derek reported that Michigan Paving started the skip paving project on M-37 north this week. Derek reported that MDOT plans on continuing paving north next year, along with chip sealing M-82 west.

Derek provided the board with a construction update.

Commissioner Gonyon inquired about our 2nd round of mowing. Derek indicated that we would decide in August if we wanted to perform another round of mowing on everything or just the primary routes.

Derek reported that he has received a letter from Consumers Energy with details on the Hardy Dam project. Consumers Energy hopes to secure funding in January to move forward with the project. Our portion of the project is slated to take place in 2026.

Commissioner discussion items: Commissioner Harmon informed the board that the Parks Committee will be meeting with Lilley Township tomorrow regarding Pettibone Park.

Public Comment: Gary Timmer mentioned having contact information for agents of the major health insurance carriers. Gary asked if the golf outing would have hole sponsors. Kerry informed him that it was too late for this year's outing, but going forward she will solicit hole sponsors. Gary informed the board that he will be retiring on August 31st. Gary extended his appreciation for all that we have done and continue to do. He is pleased with the relationships that were made.

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk