

LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING- ELECTRONIC REMOTE ACCESS
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
4:30 p.m.

Per the MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253, and in accordance with Public Act 228 of 2020, remote access was implemented per the requirements of PA 228 of 2020.

Present. Mr. James Novak, Jr. Chairman; Mr. Les Nichols, Vic Chairman; Mr. Terry Jostock, Member; Mrs. Linette Weston, Board Secretary; Mr. Zeb Schons, Superintendent of Operations; Mr. Erick Pearson, Managing Director; Mr. Justin Hinds, Christine Pulpa

Mr. Novak called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

012721-009

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Jostock to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes

012721-010

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Jostock to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for January 13, 2021. Motion carried.

Approval of Disbursements

012721-011

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Jostock to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll dated January 28, 2021 in the amount of \$300,787.39. Motion carried.

Road Project Agreements

012721-012

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Jostock to approve the four Elba Township Road Project Agreements.

Elba Township

504-008-213700 Dust Control, LCRC, Up to 3 Applications, Estimated Cost: \$33,350.40

504-008-213701 Roadside Mowing, LCRC, 1 Double in Spring and Summer

Estimated Cost: \$11,762.00/LCRC \$5,551/Township \$5.881

504-008-213702 Brush Axe and Tree Removal Program, Estimated Cost: \$10,000/LCRC

\$5,000/Township \$5,000

504-008-213703 Ditching Program, \$10,000/LCRC \$5,000/Township \$5,000

Motion carried.

012721-013

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Jostock to approve the one Oregon Township Road Project Agreement.

Oregon Township

504-017-214602 Brush Axe and Tree Removal Program, Estimated Cost: \$10,000/LCRC

\$5,000/Township \$5000

Motion carried.

Managing Director Report

Sale of LCRC Properties

Mr. Pearson explained that the Road Commission has three separate properties that he would like to get appraised for the option to sell.

Mr. Pearson explained that the **White Pit** property is located on the east side of M-24 just south of Miller Lake Road. Mr. Pearson reported that this 2.94-acre parcel was the location of a brine well used by the Road Commission many years ago. This brine well was capped in 1965 and was appraised in 2005 for \$40,000.00. Mr. Pearson stated that there is an existing agreement which allows the owners at 4922 N. Lapeer Road to access their easterly parcel through the Road Commission property.

The second parcel for sale is on Falkenbury Road, known as the **Falkenbury Pit** and is a 20-acre parcel that could ideally be split into two ten-acre parcels. This parcel once housed the Township dump and has had a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment completed on it. The Road Commission mined some sand years ago. Mr. Pearson reported that the property was appraised at \$74,000.00 for each parcel in 2005. Five acres of this property are currently being rented as farmland.

The third parcel is located on Old State Road and is known as the **Van Warmer Pit**. The Road Commission owns a 59-acre parcel on which the North Branch Service garage is located. The southerly ±20 acres has no known gravel reserves. Four splits have been approved on this southeasterly portion. Parcel A is 4.81 acres and was appraised at \$48,000.00; Parcel B is 4.12 acres and was appraised at \$41,000.00; Parcel C is 3.45 acres and was appraised at \$34,500.00; and Parcel D is 7.32 acres and was appraised at \$50,000.00. Twenty-nine acres including all of these properties are currently being rented as farmland.

Mr. Pearson stated he will go forward with the new appraisals immediately.

011321-014

Motion by Commissioner Jostock, seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Genesee, Tuscola, Shiawassee and Oakland County. Roll call vote: Mr. Novak, aye; Mr. Jostock, aye; Mr. Nichols, aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson explained that this agreement is a one-year agreement to assist with road operations in the event the COVID virus affects a maintenance garage and assistance is needed on the State routes.

Mr. Pearson reported that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on March 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Mr. Pearson spoke briefly about the current Verizon GPS system and the problems that we are having since the system was upgraded. Mr. Pearson explained that we have spoken with other road commissions that are having better success with other brands. Mr. Schons explained that a system made specifically for the road equipment would allow better monitoring of blade up/down, salt application and the ability to broadcast live during snow operations.

Mr. Jostock asked why you wouldn't be live at all times?

Mr. Pearson stated that for the safety of the road crew we would not want to risk the safety of an employee by displaying their location. Mr. Jostock agreed.

Mr. Jostock asked if GPS is in all of the management road vehicles. Mr. Schons stated that GPS units were in all of the vehicles until one was totaled and that unit was used in another unit and has not been replaced. If a new system is purchased, all vehicles will once again have GPS. It was agreed to move forward with an improved system.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Schons asked the Board to declare vehicle #1003, a 2010 Chevrolet Impala as surplus. Mr. Schons stated that vehicle has 145,079 miles and is having major transmission issues.

012721-015

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Jostock to declare #1003 as surplus. Motion carried.

Mr. Schons went on to state that Mother Nature hit the County hard yesterday, and we received nothing but compliments from MDOT regarding our performance. The average the crews worked was sixteen hours. They finished up the subdivisions today and put a big dent on the back roads putting sand down on the hills, stops and curves. Mr. Schons gave a shout out to the crews for a job well done again. Mr. Novak also thanked the crews.

Engineering Report

Mr. Gingell asked the Board to approve the box culvert bid tabulations.

012721-016

Motion by Commissioner Jostock, seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Concrete Box Culvert Tib Tabulation. Motion carried.

Mr. Gingell reported to the Board that the Asset Management presentation for District 2 will be held on February 3rd at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Public Comment

Mr. Justin Hinds, 2952 Five Lakes Road

Mr. Hinds stated that he sent an email with photos regarding the pot holes and the ongoing situation on Five Lakes Road from Sutton to Newark that have existed since summer. Mr. Hinds explained that the Road Commission stated it has ninety days to fix it, but it has not been fixed. Mr. Hinds stated that he and his cousin were coming to the Road Commission today to ask what the permanent solution was going to be.

Ms. Christina Pulpa, 2952 Five Lakes Road

Ms. Pulpa explained that she owns the home and has lived at this location for twenty years. She went on to state that she has never had the issues in the past that they have had this year. Ms. Pulpa reported that the Road Commission has been diligent about coming out to grade when they have called, but perhaps it is the way it is being graded or something is just not right, because the road is back to the way it was within a week. She stated she has had to replace tie rods on her car twice this year and she does not fly up and down the road. She stated it has become more of a trucking route and there is increased traffic, so maybe that is the issue. Ms. Pulpa explained that she is a registered nurse at Genesys Hospital working as a COVID nurse, and honestly doesn't have time to drive ten miles per hour just to get home and to work. That's how bad the roads are; they are washboard, there are two-foot-deep potholes and she has even had to drive in the neighbors grass just to get around. She finds this unacceptable. She

finished with the comment that on the other side of Five Lakes Road, near Peppermill, a project was done that seems to lasting quite a bit longer, but it also has less traffic.

Mr. Pearson stated that he did review that roadway today as well as the photos, and agrees that some sections of the road do need material. He stated that he has spoken to the Superintendent and that when the gravel haul crew are in the Metamora Pit, they can haul some material to Five Lakes Road.

Unfortunately, during this winter season the ground is frozen and there is nothing we can do. Ms. Pulpa stated that he understands this and explained that this is why she and her cousin tried to take care of it in the summer.

Mr. Pearson stated that he appreciates them sitting through this meeting to tell the Road Commission this. Mr. Pearson reported that when the weather breaks the crews will grade the road and when the gravel haul moves to the pit, they will haul material to the road to get a crown back on the road to let the water off.

It was stated that it was a primary road, and Mr. Novak closed the issue explaining that we will get it fixed.

Commissioners Reports and Comments

Mr. Jostock wanted to thank all of the guys; they did a good job, as the roads are pretty dry already today.

Mr. Nichols also stated the crews did a good job plowing in the past week.

Mr. Novak said he concurred.

Mr. Novak added that he has also driven Five Lake Road for twenty years and in the springtime is has gotten pretty bad.

Being no further business, Chairman Novak declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

James Novak Jr., Chairman

Linette Weston, Board Secretary