

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chair
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chair
Bruce Clark, Commission Member
Jon Myers, Managing Director
Russ Inman, Design Engineer
Art Buck, Superintendent
Brenda Gordert, Finance Director/Clerk
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician
Donna Lowe, Finance Director
Ashley Hiles, GIS Technician
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Dan Mieske, Edenville Twp.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said

Additions to Agenda:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022, meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

Dan Mieske of Edenville Township attended meeting to discuss the ditch on Hall Road, west of Stark Rd. Art stated he had mentioned it to Joel but was not sure if he had gotten out to check on it. Mr. Mieske also asked about the ditch near Baker and Stark Roads, which Art stated he thought had been taken care of. Art stated that we were also going to get road signs up at Curtis Rd. and 5 Mile Rd, as time allowed. Mr. Mieske also inquired about the timeline for work on Hicks Rd, which Art stated did not have a specific timeline but that gravel projects were usually later in the summer, possibly August. Mr. Mieske inquired about meeting with Art in the near future to discuss township projects for next year, prior to the September Township board meeting.

Commissioner Atton spoke about the school tragedy in Texas and asked for everyone to keep the families in their thoughts.

Approval of Open Accounts:

The pre-pay for May 12, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for May 12, 2022, in the amount of \$731,091.16.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

The pre-pay for May 25, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for May 25, 2022, in the amount of 578,350.56.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark
Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

MCTO meeting will be held on June 2nd at the Homer Township Public Safety Facility. All three Commissioners are planning to attend. Commissioner Clark was unsure about whether his wife would attend but would let Donna know. Jon was planning to attend and Art needed to check his calendar.

Permit listing was reviewed

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: The Engineering Reimbursement was discussed. This is an annual State of Michigan \$10,000 reimbursement for having Jon on staff as an engineer.

Moved by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Hyatt to approve the submission of the Engineering Reimbursement.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Misc: None

Staff Reports:

Jeff stated they have been working on drainage projects and survey and staking for those projects.

Russ gave an update on the interns in the engineering department. There are two interns working with them. Blaine is assisting Jeff in the field. Hunter is working in the office and Ashley is training him on GIS and mapping assets.

He has also worked on the easements for the Flint Street Drainage Outlet that travels through the Flats Campground in Edenville Township, all required easements have been obtained.

Russ also reported that the meeting for the right of way for the Waldo-Monroe roundabout went well.

Donna reported that she had attended the County Road Association conference in Frankenmuth May 9-12, 2022. She stated that she learned a lot and made lots of good contacts with other road commission employees.

She also stated that the new Payroll Clerk, Michelle had started in the office and was doing well.

Brenda thanked Ashley for all of the retirement decorations and for helping her celebrate.

Ben discussed the annual training he had been to at the Saginaw County Road Commission. There was very good attendance at the training.

Kevin's foreman truck arrived and he is driving that now.

Weighmaster truck arrived and was outfitted to fit Bill's needs. We took delivery of it on Monday from the outfitters and they are very happy with the build on that vehicle.

Ben also gave an update on the office window installation. Project only took two days to complete. Ben and Jon are working with Dan at Midland Glass and WinCo with regard to a few of the panes that have slight imperfections.

He gave an update on all the work that was put in by several employees for the parking lot improvements. There were ADA ramps poured, catch basin repairs and the scale pads were moved to a new location on the Price Rd. access drive.

He stated the new excavator is arriving June 6th, just in time for a big project Art is wanting to start that week.

He also stated that the new brine tanker is scheduled to be built in September now. It was supposed to be built in May, but due to some material shortages it was pushed back. It still looks good that we will have a brine tanker for winter. He also mentioned that the swap loader was working really well for brining and it has been an asset to the fleet.

Art gave an update on the summer interns. Blaine returned from last year, he is going to Ferris in the same program that Jeff was in, so he will be learning a lot of things from Jeff that are very beneficial.

He also gave an update on multiple projects:

- Paving projects are underway
- Chip/Seal is being worked on throughout the county
- Meridian Road/Saiko Road project is nearly finished
- Gray Road bridge project is starting on June 6.
- Dust control/brining is complete
- Grader training was held last week. 4 days of training through Michigan Tech that was attended by 6 Midland Road Commission employees, 3 Gladwin Road Commission employees and 4 Isabella Road Commission employees. Very well received and very appreciated by the crews.

He discussed the summer student help. Four have started on mower tractors, two more are starting in the next two weeks. Was hoping for 7 but only had 6 hired, but they are all good.

Commissioner Atton asked for an update on Eastman Road. Art stated it is being monitored and we will continue to watch it.

Jon updated the board on the Federal Aid Buyout Program which was signed into law in March. He has received preliminary guidance from MDOT and the first round is going to be determined in June for 2023 projects. He also cautioned that the first year MDOT is only making \$25 million available so it is unclear how far that will go towards all the projects that will be submitted. He provided an update on the windmill projects. DTE agreed to fund a portion of the repairs. MCRC will be doing some extra chip seal and microsurface while the repairs are being done. It was determined that none of the culverts were damaged by the windmill projects, but they may still need to be replaced because they were in bad condition to begin with.

Jon has been working with the County Drain Commission on an agreement for culvert replacements on County Drains under the Drain Commission authority.

He is also working on procedures for replacing culverts prior to paving projects. He is looking to upgrade the culverts if that is necessary, even at additional costs, so the upgrades are done before paving projects.

He gave an update on the Prairie Creek bridge replacement. A new hydraulic analysis was done to assist in making sure the bridge is replaced appropriately.

Jon attended a Workers Compensation prior to the CRA Conference which was informative. He also attended a Managers Meeting as well as an MDOT maintenance contract training. Commissioners were provided with a new County Road Association Commissioner's Handbook, and there will be an online review of the handbook on June 20th. Jon let the board know he will be viewing that training here on the 20th and they can watch it here or log in at home if they want to.

Moved by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to go into closed session at 9:40 am to discuss labor negotiations.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to reconvene the regular meeting at 10:40 am.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to update the health care savings plan divisions, including amending division name to include all employees hired prior to 12/1/2014 and adjusting leave payout over 240 hours (annual and termination).

Roll call

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to adopt a 457 defined contribution plan to include full time employees hired on or after 12/01/2014 who contribute to a 457.

Roll call

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Atton and seconded by Commissioner Clark to consolidate vacation leave and sick leave into paid time off (PTO) for administrative staff.

Roll call

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

All Commissioners and staff thanked Brenda for her service to the Midland County Road Commission for the last 41 years.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 10:46 a.m. until Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Donna Lowe, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chair