

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on October 13, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chair
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chair
Rod Kloha, Member
Jon Myers, Managing Director
Russ Inman, Design Engineer
Donna Lowe, Finance Director
Art Buck, Superintendent
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager
Ashley Hiles, GIS Technician
Absent: Jeff Brown, Construction Technician

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Laura Dawson, Lee Township; Terrance Hall, Edenville Township; Stan McLean, Hope Township, Paul Miles, Hope Township; Theodore Smith, Hope Township; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township attended virtually.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said

Additions to Agenda:

Private Road Maintenance agreement policy

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2022 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2022 Special Meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

Maria Sandow thanked Joel for fixing the holes on Monroe Road, it was much appreciated.

Stan McLean stated he lives on Hicks Road and the road conditions are poor. He questioned when limestone would be scheduled to be spread. Art explained that they had pulled shoulders a month ago to prepare the road to spread gravel. We are not spreading limestone, we are spreading gravel. Gravel spreads have started and depending on weather should all be done within approximately 2 weeks. Mr. McLean asked about paving the road and Art explained that needed to be discussed at a township level.

Ted Smith from Hicks Road stated that they had petitioned the township for blacktop. He needs a blacktop road for medical reasons and the township promised them a blacktop road a year ago. Art explained that the decisions for what work is done is up to the townships. Russ explained the process the road commission goes through with the township for projects.

Laura Dawson from Lee Township explained the process from the township board perspective.

Terrance Hall, Edenville Township Supervisor, also explained the road commission's role in planning township projects.

Approval of Open Accounts:

The pre-pay for October 13, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Kloha to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for October 13, 2022, in the amount of \$1,155,104.46.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

East Central Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022 in Ogemaw County.

Permit listing was reviewed

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Jon discussed the HIP-CRRSAA funding, which was money appropriated at the RTF level. We received approximately \$212,000 as a cashout. Russ discussed how the City of Coleman is the only other agency besides the road commission that would be eligible for these funds. He calculated the amount due to the City based on the amount of eligible road miles.

Jon and Russ also explained that the road commission has decided the best use of our portion of these funds was to complete the section of 11 Mile Road from Redstone to LaPorte that had not been completed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Kloha, to allocate HIP-CRRSAA funding to each agency based on its' proportional amount of the eligible road network and that MCRC funds shall be utilized towards constructing the remaining portion of 11 Mile Road, between Redstone Road and Laporte Road, which was an incomplete 2019 RTF project.

HIP-CRRSAA allocation per agency:

- MCRC: \$209,523.75 (98.41%)
- Coleman: \$3,385.25 (1.59%)

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioner Hyatt, Kloha, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Misc:

Jon reviewed the current road commission policy on Private Road Maintenance agreements. For approximately the last 7 years, the Commission has not been taking on new private road maintenance but has been honoring the existing ones. He stated that he believes it is in the Commission's best interest to continue this policy, as it states that the Commission has the right to refuse new agreements, which leaves the door open if in the future it is in the Commission's best interest to negotiate new contracts, however right now the costs of these maintenance agreements make them prohibitive and private road residents can get faster and cheaper service from private businesses for plowing.

Laura Dawson asked about a previous contract with Lee Township for Rust Dee Lane, which is no longer active, but the residents would like to get it back. Art stated he had researched it and he did not know how or why the contract came to expire without being renewed, but it was only active for one three year period and has not been renewed or asked about in 18 years.

Staff Reports:

Ashley stated that she has been working on dashboards for data summaries. Russ praised her for working on easements and mapping right of ways and abandonments, which is going to be very helpful. Commissioner Atton also praised her for the monthly Facebook posts because he enjoys getting to see the projects we are working on.

Russ stated he had filed the Abandonment for south 8 Mile Rd. with the Register of Deeds. He reviewed the filing process with the Register of Deeds, and he is now reviewing all abandonments since 1995 to make sure they have been recorded properly.

He also updated the board that the easement drafted for Pine River Road in Porter Township will not be able to be done this year. It is now up to the property owner to decide if they want to move forward.

Donna stated she has been very busy with the union contract, getting employees set up to meet with Leah, answering questions about changes from employees.

Russ also informed the board that the retired former finance director, Nancy Cleaver had recently passed away.

Art gave updates on several things including conferences, gravel spreads, drainage and new employee training.

Commissioner Atton had been questioned about Monroe Rd. between Waldo and the County line. The person stated there was standing water in the road. Art was going to go out and look for standing water, as it had been very rainy and if there was a problem there would be water.

Art also updated Maria Sandow and the board about a brine line on Monroe Rd. that Dow has to cap and fill before we can finish paving it. Dow is scheduled to do that work in November, and we will put the paving on hold until spring.

Jon updated the board on the Baker Rd. Bridge project, which is having blocks set now. It is on schedule to be completed on time, in spite of some weather delays.

Jon also stated that the 11 Mile project is going well even with the rain we have received. It will be ready to be paved next week, weather permitting.

He let the board know that Leah from MERS is speaking to employees one on one October 17, 2022 about changes to the retirement options available to them with the new union contract. The contract is supposed to take effect October 22, 2022.

Jon had been to a meeting with Emergency Management about HUD Disaster funds. He is going to ask for several projects to be included in the use of those funds.

Jon also updated the board about meetings with EGLE and the DNR about the mussel survey at the Bailey Bridge project. He was disappointed that after all the information they had provided to the state, the state denied the request to waive the mussel survey.

He also gave updates about all the reimbursement requests that had been put in throughout the year. Funds are beginning to come in for some of those requests.

Jon announced that effective Monday, October 12, 2022, Meridian Road officially became M30. There is still some finalization paperwork to be done, but the transfer is officially complete.

Commissioner Atton asked about the roundabout on Waldo Road and if anything was happening there. Russ gave an update on that and stated that the planning committee declined the request for rezoning. It is still in the process.

Ben gave updates on winter prep that is going on. They received the front plow for the M20 truck, which they test fitted and it is going to be nice for the winter. The foreman trucks are also getting outfitted for winter plows.

He also let the board know that the new motor grader arrived. Ben Laubscher has been experimenting with it since it arrived.

He explained some reformatting of the ergonomics of the joystick in the brush cutter. The joystick placement conflicted with the throttle control, so they relocated the joystick and it is much better for the operator to utilize.

The forestry head was also put on the brush cutter and is very helpful to clear larger brush which takes some work off the tree crew.

Ben also stated that the stock room project has begun. It will take several weeks to complete, but he and Brian are working on it and looking forward to it being done.

He gave an update on all the new equipment that will be coming in the new year.

Commissioner Kloha stated he had attended the New Commissioner's Conference in Frankenmuth this week. He learned some new things, and thought the speakers were really good.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 10:22 a.m. until Thursday, October 27, 2022.

Donna Lowe, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chair