

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on October 27, 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
Donna Lowe, Finance Director
Art Buck, Superintendent
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager
Ashley Hiles, GIS Technician
Absent: Russ Inman, Design Engineer

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township attended virtually.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said

Additions to Agenda:

Jon added a staffing update to the agenda under New Business

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Open Accounts:

The pre-pay for October 27, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Kloha to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for October 27, 2022, in the amount of \$620,392.82.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

The Midland County Township Officials' Association Holiday Membership Dinner Meeting was discussed. It will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Great Hall in Midland. RSVP's are due by November 30, 2022 for the meal count.

Permit listing was reviewed

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Jon gave the board some information about the short term disability policy that the Road Commission has with Fort Dearborn. The premium will be increasing significantly in 2023. Brenda had compiled some information from the last 10 years regarding the amount the Road Commission has spent in premiums versus the benefits which had been paid out. The benefits paid out were

less than half of the premiums paid during the same time frame. Jon recommended to the board that the Road Commission self-fund the short-term disability and cancel the policy with Fort Dearborn. Jon is working on a policy for self-funding the short-term disability which will duplicate the benefits, coverage qualifications, etc. from the Fort Dearborn policy.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Kloha to self-fund the short term disability claims for employees and cancel the Fort Dearborn policy effective January 1, 2023.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioner Hyatt, Kloha, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Jon and Ben updated the board about one mechanic and one crew member that are retiring this year, as well as others that are being considered for 2023. A crew member was hired in September and the mechanic position was posted internally. Dan Nevill has signed to fill that position and will begin on January 1, 2023. Ben would like to fill Dan Nevill's Mechanic's Helper position with a fully certified mechanic. There are additional costs to doing that, but he believes the benefits will outweigh the costs. Preventative maintenance would be handled by a certified mechanic and he believes that will benefit the fleet in the long run. Additionally, having all certified mechanics will make daily scheduling easier instead of having to assign duties according to classification.

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to advertise an opening for and hire a full mechanic position with a January 1, 2023 start date.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioner Hyatt, Kloha, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Misc:

None

Staff Reports:

Jeff announced that his second son had been born on October 20, 2022. Everyone was healthy and happy and doing well.

He updated the board on the progress of the 11 Mile project. Paving will begin this weekend and will be complete in approximately 2 weeks.

Drainage projects are still being worked on and he is helping with survey and design on those.

Jeff discussed the progress at the Baker Rd. Bridge. The progress on that project is going very well and they will be setting the deck soon.

Ben discussed the winter prep that is going on with all the equipment over the next few weeks.

Art indicated that the early salt deliveries had begun. All of the state salt was delivered, and the county salt is now coming in. They are running 10-12 trucks a day to get it delivered.

He updated the board about the crew positions that will shuffle with the announced retirements at the end of the year.

The sign crew was doing a recertification class for traffic control via Zoom over the course of the week.

Art also gave an update on the gravel spread projects. They are almost done for this year. There are also a couple roads left to pave as well, but the weather has not been cooperative.

He also thinks the crew will get through all the drainage projects also if all continues to go well.

Jon had some training with 911/Central Dispatch at the emergency operations center, which went well.

The preliminary inspection at Bailey Bridge was completed. There is still some holdup with relocating the endangered mussels as well as the contamination survey so it likely will not be able to be bid until next year.

The Gordonville Bridge over the Tittabawassee inspection showed that the areas they were previously concerned about were found to be fine, however the beams are cracking in areas not previously thought to be a concern. It will need a rehab in the future but it is not an emergency.

Jon has two meetings next week, which are the RTF 7C on Monday and the MATS meeting on Tuesday. The State will have additional money available for the RTF, which will be split between trunkline and local agencies. It will need to be spent during the 2023 state fiscal year. Jon will be trying to capture as many of the funds as possible.

Commissioner Atton was approached to possibly run for an open position on the MCRCSIP board. He is just considering it right now and needs to talk to Gayle about a few details before he makes a decision.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:44 a.m. until Thursday, November 10, 2022.

Donna Lowe, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chair