

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chair  
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chair  
Bill Cozat, Member  
Jon Myers, Managing Director  
Travis Havercamp, Design Engineer  
Art Buck, Superintendent  
Steve Youngs, Fleet and Facilities Manager  
Donna Lowe, Finance Director  
Ashley Hiles, GIS Coordinator  
Russ Inman, Director of Engineering  
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician

Absent: None

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Larry Schuelke, Homer Township; Maria Sandow attended remotely.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**Additions to Agenda:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2024 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Cozat

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment:**

Jeanette Snyder commented on the potential for turnover on the Midland County Board of Commissioners this year.

**Approval of Open Accounts and Payroll:**

The payroll for March 14, 2024 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to authorize payroll for March 14, 2024.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Cozat

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Open accounts for March 14, 2024 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve open accounts for March 14, 2024, in the amount of \$402177.23.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Cozat

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Correspondence and Items of Information:**

***MCRCSIP Election Memo for Candidates***

The board received a letter from the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool regarding the collection of resumes or letters of candidacy for positions on the Board of Directors. Letters of candidacy will be collected until April 30, 2024.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

***Material Bid Results***

The board reviewed the as read 2024 Material Bid Tabulations for Large Culvert Supply, Pavement Markings, the HMA Paving Program, Parks and Recreation Parking Lot Grading and Paving, Micro-Surface, Cold Patch, Emulsions, Aggregates and Retaining Wall Block Supply. Jon discussed the bids for each category and requested that the board approve the material bids to be awarded in the best interest of the Road Commission for pricing, except for the Parks and Recreation project. Jon requested that bid not be awarded at this time because of confusion on the part of the contractors about what exactly was being bid for that job. Jeff will reach out to the 2nd lowest bidding contractor to see if they will still honor their bid price for that job as a stand-alone bid.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to approve the awarding of material bids in the best interest of the Road Commission for pricing.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

***Local Bridge Program Applications***

The board reviewed a list of potential projects to be submitted for the fiscal year 2027 Local Bridge Program. Jon and Russ will determine which projects will actually be submitted for, and they will ask for a resolution at the next board meeting.

***Temporary Road Foreman Position***

Jon requested approval from the board for a temporary foreman position for a period of six months. This position will work along side Kevin for the summer and will be training opportunity during the construction season in preparation for the eventual retirement of both of our current foremen.

There has been an approved letter of understanding between the Road Commission and the Union that lays out the details of the temporary position, which is agreed upon. Jon stated the total number of full time employees will remain at 43. The position has been posted and management is just waiting for board approval to conduct interviews.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Atton to authorize the approval of a temporary road foreman as detailed in the signed letter of understanding between the Midland County Road Commission and the Local Union.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Miscellaneous:**

None

**Staff Reports:**

Jeff has been working on bid results and has also been able to get out and start some surveys due to the mild weather.

Russ discussed some issues that MDOT had with the way he calculated values for the Bailey Bridge right-of-way. It was the way he has done it for a long time, but this time MDOT has stated they will not accept it. It has created a lot of extra work for Russ and has required several updates. Dow is working with him very well to get it back on track and he is hoping to have it all taken care of in time to still have it ready for a June bid letting.

Donna is preparing for the annual audit, which will begin on Monday. She also stated that everyone will be using electronic timecards by the end of this week. Over half the staff is using it already and most comments have been positive.

Ashley has been working on new county maps. She has been scheduling interviews for summer engineering interns, and she and Jeff will have a booth at Ferris State University's Job Fair next week.

Travis has been working on drainage design and local ditching design.

Steve reports that the whole fleet is up and running. The crew will be beginning summer prep soon. He attended a Fleet Maintenance Management training in Indianapolis last week and it was an excellent experience.

Art and Jon met with ProComm last week about the new radio installation and the tower upgrade. ProComm will be doing the installations on Fridays once crew go to the four 10-hour day schedule, which will keep disruption to a minimum. Art, Jeff, and Joel attended a Superintendent's meeting that was well attended and had great information. Art reports that MDOT and the Road Commission have taken delivery of all of the backup salt they were required to purchase for this season. Art has also been updating estimates based on the material bid results and will notify any townships whose estimates are affected.

Jon attended the Bridge Conference, which was well attended and informational. There was a pre-construction meeting for the Eastman Rd project last week. He also sat in on interviews for the MPO Planner position. He feels they have a very good candidate, and they are in the process of making an offer and hopefully will have someone hired soon. A virtual MERS webinar was presented last week that was attended by approximately 15 employees. Jon also attended the MCTOA meeting last Thursday, as well as a meeting with the DNR. Art reported that the Midland Forestry Unit will be staffed again after a few years of not being in operation. Jon reminded everyone about the Highway Roadshow next week. The Road Commission will be awarded an Impress Award for the Weighmaster Outreach Program entry and Jon reported that Weighmaster vonMatt will be attending to accept the award. Jon also presented the board with an updated MTF chart outlining where our road funding comes from.

Jeanette Snyder commented on how often she hears people mention Jon in the community and how appreciative she is of his public outreach. She hears very positive things about him, and she is so thankful that he is as involved as he is. She also gave a brief update about some election year happenings going on around Midland County as well as state-wide that she is aware about that she thought the board might want to educate themselves about.

Commissioner Cozat gave additional information about the Midland Forestry Unit re-opening, including the history of the position, what they do and when it is anticipated to be staffed again.

Commissioner Atton discussed the AGRIP Conference he attended in Nashville, TN last week on behalf of the MCRCSIP Board of Directors.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 10:08 a.m. until Thursday, March 28, 2024.

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Donna Lowe, Finance Director

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Mike Atton, Chair