

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chairman  
Al Kloha, Commission Member  
Terry Palmer, Managing Director  
Sam SanMiguel, Superintendent  
Russ Inman, Design Engineer  
Brenda Gordert, Clerk  
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager  
Art Buck, Design Technician  
Absent: Don Terwillegar, Vice Chairman

Public Present: Jeanette Synder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Mike Eash; Gary Laurenz; Mary Steger; Karen Laurenz; Mike Wood, Jerome Township Supervisor; Gene Smith, Midland County Planning Commission Chairman.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said**

**Additions to Agenda:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment:**

Gary Laurenz spoke regarding Swede Road extension in Larkin Township.

Mary Steger spoke regarding Swede Road extension in Larkin Township.

**Approval of Open Accounts:**

The pre-pay for May 4, 2017 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for May 4, 2017 in the amount of \$372,537.24.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Kloha, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Correspondence and Items of Information:**

None

**Permit listing was reviewed**

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Swede Road:**

Terry reviewed the requests and proposals received by the Road Commission from township residents over the past couple years regarding Swede Road and it was agreed to bring the road up to "seasonal road status". Swede Road, Larkin Township section 22, is a certified road. Terry, Russ, and Sam attended a meeting with Larkin Township regarding Swede Road last

week and the residents were not in favor of the proposed work. After review of new information, the Road Commission will pull off the project after we remove a culvert, restore right-of-way where clay was removed, and restore drain area on Steger property and place rip rap.

Russ reviewed information on Swede Road certification from February of 1934. Swede Road was certified for at least ten years after its acceptance and has never been abandoned. Russ also reviewed recent history regarding permits in June of 2014 from Bennett Construction to construct a roadway for a new development. At that time, meetings were held with the Larkin Township Board and it was agreed to bring the road to seasonal road status.

Sam commented on a previous discussion with Larkin Township regarding funding for improvements and paving of Swede Road to enable the developer to sell lots.

**Midland County Planning Commission Dissolution:**

Russ attended a meeting of the County Board of Commissioners regarding the dissolution of the County Planning Commission. There was a 3-2 vote of the board members present in favor of dissolving the Planning Commission. Jeanette Snyder commented the vote was not a 2/3 majority due to the absence of two board members and it will need to be reviewed at the next meeting. Jeanette is seeking input from residents' county wide on this matter. Midland County has a policy to allow the Township's Planning Commission full authority.

Mike Wood spoke regarding Jerome Township's Planning Commission and they have full authority and do not use the County Planning Commission.

Eugene Smith spoke in favor of keeping the County Planning Commission.

**Wheel Loader Purchase:**

Ben presented information on the municipal lease purchase of a John Deere 644K Wheel Loader from the State of Michigan MiDeal pricing program in the amount of \$231,382.40. Discussion was held.

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve lease purchase of John Deere 644K Wheel Loader.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Kloha

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**1-Ton Dump Truck Purchase:**

Ben presented information on the purchase of a 1-ton 4x4 Regular Cab dump truck from the State of Michigan MiDeal pricing program in the amount of \$39,885.50. Truck will be equipped with brackets for front snow plow attachment. Discussion was held.

Moved by Commissioner Kloha and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve purchase of 2017 GMC Sierra 3500HD 1-ton regular cab 4x4 dump truck.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Kloha, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Miscellaneous:**

None

**Staff Reports:**

Terry stated the Eastman Road project is moving forward. Some flooding occurred but has been corrected by the contractor. He stated Shearer Road reconstruction has also started.

Terry attended a meeting with the City of Midland on the hiring of a new City Manager. They are seeking input from residents, members of the County and 911 officials.

He attended the MPO meeting this week and we will partner with the City of Midland on Airport Road reconstruction project.

Ben gave an update on the shop floor. Demo is completed and holes have been dug for the new hoists. Contractor has formed pit walls and footings have been poured. We are approximately 1 week ahead of schedule.

Sam stated the contractors are working on the township projects. The gravel has been spread and the roads have been pulverized for the recons. The contractors have paved a couple of the overlays and paved some of the base courses. When things warm up they will come back and do the ultra thins.

The summer students have all been hired and some started on May 1. The roadside mowing will start next week. He is waiting for warmer weather before the crack seal crew starts.

Russ stated he submitted 12 critical bridge applications.

He stated there are approximately \$42,000 in bid savings this year from the Rural Task Force projects. Once approved, Isabella County will borrow these funds and we will get them back next year.

We are taking sealed bids this month for three MDOT Projects:

Drainage on M20 in Greendale Township

Guardrail on US10 in Larkin Township

Intersection Improvement at M30 & M20 in Lee Township

Russ thanked Jeanette for her due diligence regarding the future of the County Planning Commission.

Brenda stated she will be attending a Finance & HR Conference May 16-18.

Commissioner Kloha thanked staff for doing a great job.

Commissioner Atton thanked Sam for getting the early paving completed.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 10:55 a.m. until Thursday, May 18, 2017.

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Brenda Gordert, Clerk

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Mike Atton, Chairman