

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mike Atton, Chairman
Jim Hyatt, Commission Member
Jon Myers, Managing Director
Brenda Gordert, Finance Director
Art Buck, Superintendent
Russ Inman, Design Engineer
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician
Ashley Rockefeller, GIS Technician

Absent: None

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township Supervisor; Laura Dawson, Lee Township Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said

Additions to Agenda:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on October 12, 2020.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Open Accounts:

The pre-pay for October 15, 2020 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Atton to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for October 15, 2020 in the amount of \$901,154.40.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

East Central Council will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020.

Permit listing was reviewed

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

A ballot was received from MCRCSIP to vote on changes to the bylaws regarding membership. The changes would allow Counties that have taken over their Road Commissions to become associate members of the insurance pool.

Moved by Commissioner Atton and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to vote no on the proposed amendments to the MCRCSIP bylaws.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous:

None

Staff Reports:

Russ stated construction has started on the repair of Curtis Road in Edenville Township. All easements, consent to grade and right-of-way purchases were secured and totaled \$6,000. He is continuing to work on projects and planning for flood repairs.

Jeff stated they are pouring curb and gutter on the west side of Eastman Road. The paving has not yet been scheduled.

A large township drainage project on Greendale Road has started.

The township drainage project on 7 Mile Road between M20 and Olson will be completed today.

The temporary repair of flood damages on Poseyville Road will be starting soon.

Ben stated he talked with Wieland Truck about the new engine for truck #630 and they have agreed to sell us the new engine at cost. Price will be approximately \$22,000 instead of \$40,000. He stated the new plow truck build is moving along nicely.

The mechanics have started prepping the v-boxes for winter.

Art stated all early county and state salt has been delivered and the shed is full.

We received 14 applications for the open laborer position and he is starting the review process.

He attended a seminar from the Michigan Center for Truck Safety on the new drug and alcohol clearinghouse. There are a couple administrative requirements we will begin to implement.

The spreading of 23A road gravel for the local township projects started on Monday.

Central Asphalt finished paving Laporte Road and School Road from Coleman to Lewis is next on the list.

If the drainage is completed on Grace Court and Richmond Drive in Hope Township, they will also be paved this fall.

He stated the contractor is paving on Saginaw Road in Sanford today.

Jon stated the Curtis Road repair should be completed by November 9th.

He stated traffic on Poseyville Road could temporarily be restricted while pavement is being removed in preparation for the roadway repair.

The FEMA projects field reviews are continuing.

USDA has all the information they needed and is waiting on final approval of money.

He stated Bay Region Bridge Council met this week and we were not approved for funding for the replacement of Shaffer Road Bridge over Bullock Creek, however we did receive funding for preventative maintenance in 2023 for;

Gordonville Road over Little Salt

4 ¾ Mile Road over Pine River

Freeland Road over Bullock Creek

9 Mile Road over Pine River

He stated Transportation Asset Management Council is hosting a fall conference. He will be doing a presentation for the conference along with Dave Pettersch from Gladwin County and Kim Zimmer from MDOT.

Ashley stated she did a presentation for the County Road Association PR Workshop this week.

In her presentation she provided information on SeeClickFix citizen complaint program, COVID-19 online survey reporting, online public surveys for road projects, and our interactive construction maps.

Maria Sandow wanted to thank the road commission for the gravel on Bombay Road. She is getting positive responses.

Public Hearing for 11 Mile Road abandonment was opened by Chairman Atton at 9:30 am.

Members of the public present are:

Betty Hebner and James Hebner
Patricia Robison
Linda Lovejoy
Jim Sperling, Edenville Township Trustee
Craig Gosen, Edenville Township Supervisor

A petition was received from seven freeholders requesting abandonment of 1.01 miles of 11 Mile Road. Public hearing notices were sent to all landowners and required entities in accordance with the abandonment procedures. Russ Inman read responses from the Midland County Drain Commissioner, DNR and Consumers Energy. The DNR responded with no objections to the abandonment but would like to maintain access to their land from Shearer Road. Consumers Energy responded with no objections. The Drain Commissioner noted any future county drain cleanouts could be troublesome without an easement. Discussion ensued.

Betty Hebner questioned where the easement would be located. Russ explained it would be a 66' easement for utilities at the discretion of the Board of County Road Commissioners.

Patricia Robison stated the road is currently impassable and has been for a couple years and questioned if abandonment is approved how the public will know the road has been legally abandoned. Russ explained the Road Commission would make signs for each end of the road and the property owners could install posts or gates outside of the road commission's 33' right-of-way to keep the public from entering.

Linda Lovejoy stated she has not been able to get to her farm fields due to the poor road conditions for several years.

Jim Hebner stated he was not able to get his soybeans off the fields last year due to the poor road conditions.

Craig Gosen, Edenville Township Supervisor, stated the township has no objections to the abandonment request.

With no further comments Chairman Atton closed the public hearing at 9:55 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Atton and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve request to abandon 11 Mile Road between Curtis and Shearer and retain a 66' easement for utilities and parcel owners.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Russ Inman will proceed with drafting up the required easements to be recorded.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 10:00 a.m. until Thursday, October 29, 2020.

Brenda Gordert, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chairman