

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chair  
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chair  
Bruce Clark, Commission Member  
Russ Inman, Design Engineer  
Art Buck, Superintendent  
Donna Lowe, Finance Director  
Ashley Hiles, GIS Technician

Absent: Jeff Brown, Construction Technician  
Jon Myers, Managing Director  
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager

Public Present: Tom Corbat, Porter Township; Heidi Pitt, Lee Township; Emily Atton; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township attended virtually.

### **The Pledge of Allegiance was said**

### **Additions to Agenda:**

None

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

### **Public Comment:**

Porter Township resident Tom Corbat commented about how the brush spray program last year has worked very well and he is pleased with the results.

Mr. Corbat also asked questions about the agreement with DTE to help fix roads damaged during the windmill project, such as how the amount they would pay was determined and how the money would be spent.

### **Approval of Open Accounts:**

The pre-pay for June 23, 2022 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for June 23, 2022, in the amount of \$623,172.54

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

### **Correspondence and Items of Information:**

There were two different articles written by the Midland Daily News that involved MCRC. Art spoke to the reporter about township projects and Donna spoke to the reporter about gas prices, and both articles were favorable toward the Road Commission.

### **Permit listing was reviewed**

### **Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:** The MCRCSIP 2022 Board of Directors Election was discussed. The ballot is due back by July 12, 2022. There is only one candidate who has submitted a letter of candidacy.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to vote for Lester Livermore for the MCRCSIP board.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Misc:**

None

**Staff Reports:**

Art gave the update for Ben, who was not present. The cab guard for the new brush hog was delivered. The new excavator was delivered last week and was delivered to the Grey Road project site and immediately put to work.

Art also gave Jeff's update about the micro surface projects that just finished up.

Art updated the board on drainage projects that are being worked on.

The bridge on Grey Road over Bullock Creek is coming along well.

Gravel spreads and pulverizing is all complete. Baker and Magruder Roads will not be paved until next year but the rest of them will be completed this year.

Art also delivered some good news about salt prices from MDOT for 2022/2023. Although it was expected that the price would go up, it actually went down instead.

Union negotiations are continuing. Art stated they are very close to having a packet to present to the union for vote.

Ashley has been working on updates to the county wide maps and line striping maps.

Russ updated the board about the FHWA projects that are being designed by OHM. There are some NRCS work items that will be bundled with the FHWA projects as that will work out better.

He also stated that EGLE is not going to require MCRC to conduct mussel relocation which would involve disturbing contaminated spoils in the Tittabawassee River in connection with the Gordonville and Bailey Bridge projects, which is good news.

He is working with MDOT regarding reimbursements for 2020 flood projects and reviewing 2017 flood projects for final accounting closeout, which has created more 'fun' work for him trying to reopen files from so long ago.

The bridge at Brooks Road over Jo Drain is being reviewed by OHM for construction next year.

Russ and Jon attended a Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail meeting on Tuesday. Midland Path Project from Poseyville towards Gordonville Rd has been delayed. Scheduled for next year now. Path from Bailey Bridge/Smith's Crossing Bridge on north side towards Tittabawassee Township Park will be bid this year but probably not built until next year.

He stated that they are doing soil borings at the Bailey Bridge now. Planning on an August GI meeting with the state and targeting to turn in plans for that project with hopes for a letting in January 2023. Russ also updated the board about the funding for that project and how the reimbursement should work.

He and Jon met with the City of Midland to discuss the road millage renewal election in August. They are working on the informational brochure with the intent to get it sent out by mid-July.

Ashley is working on new county wide maps which will have the City of Midland, City of Coleman and Village of Sanford on the back. Russ and Ashley will collaborate with all entities to ensure accurate information is shown.

The Federal Aid buyout program was messy and confusing but they had less applications than anticipated so it looks like everyone who applied will be funded, including our 2023 Tittabawassee Road rural task force project.

Russ also updated everyone on the consents to grade at the Grey Road bridge. The homeowners on either side of the bridge have agreed to let the road commission stockpile materials and to slope the grade after construction.

The summer engineering interns, Hunter McLaughlin and Blaine Burnaby, are keeping busy and are very hard working. Russ and Ashley are very happy with both of them.

Russ also gave an update on the drainage issue on South Pine River Rd that Thomas Forbes had brought up a few meetings ago. Jeff was able to survey out there in order to develop a potential design solution and begin the process of seeking a drainage easement. Russ also mentioned that Art is working on easements on W. Ridge Drive for a drainage outlet. Donna gave an update on the office since Brenda's retirement. Things are going well with Michelle doing payroll and they compliment each other very well. They are working on getting many payments done through ACH instead of paper checks. Art also gave the update for Jon, who had a meeting with the Internet Connectivity Committee. They are working on some roadblocks, but Art did not have much information about it. He also stated that NRCS accepted our reimbursement request for Orr Rd. over Weeks Drain. The board discussed all the mowing projects that are going on and how nice everything looks around the county. There was another question from Mr. Corbat about the cross tubes on 11 Mile Rd from Laporte to Redstone and when the road will be paved. Russ and Art said they believe it was a late add to the project list for this year and anticipate it will be done this year.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:38 a.m. until Thursday, July 07, 2022.

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Donna Lowe, Finance Director

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Mike Atton, Chair