

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

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

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Terrance Hall, Edenville Twp; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township, 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 April 11, 2024 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Cozat

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment:**

Terrance Hall thanked Jon for coming to the Edenville Township meeting and speaking about road funding. It was very well received by everyone and very helpful.

**Approval of Open Accounts and Payroll:**

The payroll for April 25, 2024 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to authorize payroll for April 25, 2024.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Cozat

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Open accounts for April 25, 2024 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve open accounts for April 25, 2024, in the amount of \$190,348.04.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Cozat

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Correspondence and Items of Information:**

Donna reviewed the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) audit results from Watkins Ross for this year. Due to voluntary funding by the Road Commission as well as good market returns, Midland County Road Commission is now 87% funded.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business**

***Samsara GPS and Dash Cameras***

Jon and Steve reviewed the Samsara GPS and Dash Camera system that Steve and the crew have been testing on four trucks over the winter. This system can do a lot more than the GPS system we have been using, and it also includes the dash cameras for liability purposes, as well as the ability to report diagnostic issues on the vehicles automatically. Additionally, Steve likes the fact that it plugs into the trucks without having to tie into the wiring harness. Samsara was willing to offer us a buyback program on the Skyhawk units we had recently purchased for the old system, which made it more cost effective. With Samsara, the unit costs are included in the annual licensing fees, which makes it easy to increase or decrease the number of vehicles that are being monitored at any time without having to purchase additional equipment. Jon requested the board authorize the purchase of 42 annual licenses for our fleet from Samsara.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the contract with Samsara to purchase 42 annual licenses for the Samsara GPS and Dash Camera system.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

***Local Safety Program Resolution***

The Managing Director reviewed the need to apply for a FY2026 Federal Local Safety Program Safety Grant for Barden Road from Saginaw Road to Coleman Road in Geneva Township.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, under the current transportation bill, Local Safety Program Funds are available under a competitive based consideration, and

WHEREAS, projects are funded at 80% federal funds, up to an amount not to exceed \$750,000, with a minimum 20% local match, and

WHEREAS, the Midland County Road Commission has selected Barden Road, between Saginaw Road and Coleman Road in Geneva Township, for shoulder improvements including removal of fixed objects, shoulder paving, and construction of a pavement safety edge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Road Commissioners, County of Midland, authorizes Jonathan Myers, Managing Director, to apply for these funds.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Cozat, Hyatt and Atton.

Nays: None

Resolution Adopted.

***MCTOA Road Committee update***

Jon reviewed the details of a meeting he and Art had with some members of the MCTOA in hopes of setting up a meeting with the Township Road Committee. They discussed possible changes to the road millage allocation formulas, as well as some potential changes to the local and primary road routes in Midland County.

***Potential Land Purchase Negotiation***

Jon discussed the potential purchase of property to build a new, centrally located facility in the southern half of the county that would replace the two current out garage facilities. Replacing the existing out garages has been in the long-range plan for the Road Commission for several years, as the two facilities are very old, no longer satisfy our needs, and expensive to heat. Jon and Art had been in contact with the landowner who has a property that is centrally located in the southern

part of the county who is potentially willing to sell. Jon is requesting authorization from the Board to negotiate a potential purchase agreement with the landowner. If Jon can reach an agreement with the landowner, he will bring the potential purchase agreement before the Board at that time. Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to authorize Jon to negotiate a potential purchase agreement for property in the southern part of the county for a future out garage building project.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Miscellaneous:**

None

**Staff Reports:**

Steve stated that he had purchased tourniquets for all vehicles in the fleet as a follow up to the safety training that was held recently. He and Brian had a training session with Liz from Precision to review purchase orders and inventory control more in-depth, and he reported that it went very well and was very helpful. He reported that the new Walk 'n' Roll attachment was being installed on Luke's grader and would be ready to use soon. Steve updated the Board that he had checked on the rebate that is available for the attenuator that was recently purchased but that the rebate was not available to end users. He also noted that there was a brush cutter demo at our facility today and another, similar machine being demoed in Arenac County next week.

Art attended a precon meeting with Central Asphalt for this year's paving projects. Last week he attended a Superintendent's Association of Michigan meeting in Grand Traverse County. He also reported that chip seals will begin on August 12. The dust control program will begin on May 6. He has hired the full summer help staff, and they will be starting within the next several weeks.

Jon attended a County Finance Committee meeting regarding the road millage renewal on August's primary ballot. He will be attending the Managers Retreat May 8-9, and will not be attending the next board meeting.

Donna reported she and Michelle had interviewed several young people for this summer's office intern, and that there is one more candidate left to interview before they make a decision. She also had met with a friend who is the Roscommon County Treasurer to get a better understanding of millages in general and how she can keep track of millage funds and charge backs better.

Russ recognized the office staff for their hard work in honor of Administrative Professional's Day. He also reported that all 2024 construction data is on the website. There are a few technical issues he is working on, but the data is out there and accessible in the meantime. Russ also stated that he had finished an upgrade to the internet connection in the sign shop, and he also has set up a computer station for Justin to use while his is in the temporary foreman position this summer. The engineering department has also been interviewing for the summer engineering internships, and they will be starting soon as well. Russ also stated that he is very pleased with the work Travis has done on drainage project design.

Travis has been working in the field with the crew on drainage projects and he attended a Work Zone Awareness training at Dow Diamond last week.

Jeanette Snyder gave an update on the Midland Board of County Commissioners candidates now that the filing deadline has passed. She reported that all the Commissioners races will be contested.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 10:12 a.m. until Thursday, May 9, 2024.

---

Donna Lowe, Finance Director

---

Mike Atton, Chair