

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Hyatt on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

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

Public Present: Jerry Putt, Williams Township Supervisor; Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Larry Schuelke, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Karen Histed, Michigan Chloride Sales; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township, appeared virtually.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Additions to Agenda:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 10, 2025 meeting were discussed. There are two corrections to be made. The first is the correction of the name of the Midland County Township Officials Association and the second is the change of the name of the person signing the approval of the minutes to Vice-Chairman Hyatt due to Chairman Atton's absence.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025 meeting, with the two mentioned corrections.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Cozat, Hyatt

Nays: None

Absent: Atton

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

Jerry Putt, the Williams Charter Township of Bay County Supervisor, introduced himself. He discussed plans that the township has and stated that he is looking forward to working in partnership with the Midland County Road Commission.

Jeanette Snyder discussed the finalization of leadership roles at the County Board of Commissioners, as well as the County's role in assisting the Edenville Township Board with some issues they have been having.

Karen Histed from Michigan Chloride introduced herself and asked some questions about the bid results from recent material bids.

Approval of Open Accounts and Payroll:

The payroll for February 13, 2025 and February 27, 2025 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to authorize payroll for February 13, 2025 and February 27, 2025.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Cozat, Hyatt

Nays: None

Absent: Atton

Motion Carried

Open accounts for February 27, 2025 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve open accounts for February 27, 2025, in the amount of \$816,452.04.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Cozat, Hyatt

Nays: None

Absent: Atton

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

TAMC 2025 Culvert Data Collection Funding

Russ reviewed a letter from the East Michigan Council of Governments regarding a grant to fund culvert data collection. The Midland County Road Commission was the only county in the EMCOG Region to apply and funds were approved in the amount of \$25,000. These funds will be used to pay the wages of 2 additional summer interns that will be dedicated to culvert inventory data collection.

Unfinished Business:

MCTOA Meeting RSVP

Donna reviewed the invitation to the March Midland County Township Officials Association meeting. RSVP's are due March 3rd. Commissioner Hyatt stated he will be attending; Commissioners Cozat and Atton will not.

New Business:

First Round Material Bids

Jeff reviewed the tabulations for the first round of 2025 material bids opened on February 21, 2025, which included Culvert Pipe, Signs and Posts, Cold Patch, Spray Patch Mix Emulsion, Guardrail Materials and Installation, and Dust Control and Anti-Icing Product.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to accept the staff recommendations for bid awards, in the best interest of the Road Commission.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Cozat, Hyatt

Nays: None

Absent: Atton

Motion Carried

Miscellaneous:

None

Staff Reports:

Jeff stated that he attended the County Engineers Workshop in Bellaire February 11-13th. After he returned from that, he has been working on Drain Commission agreements, and he met with EGLE regarding the Baker Road over Bliss Drain project design. He reported that the second and third rounds of materials bids are currently advertised, and all are due later in March.

Russ reported that over the last week he and Ashley have assisted NetSource One with switching over everything from the old servers onto the 2 new servers and that has gone well. Russ and Ashley met yesterday with Shumaker Technology Group, a website designer, and have accepted their proposal to redesign the MCRC website. The redesign, which will make the website more user-friendly, as well as ADA-compliant, came in \$1000 under what was budgeted. Russ also reported that Engineering staff has reviewed plans for a gas station that is being proposed at the intersection of Saginaw Road and Stark Road.

Donna announced that Travis and his wife welcomed their second child, a girl named Josephine Louise, on February 20, 2025. She also stated that she is preparing to begin her annual audit on March 3rd.

Steve reported that much of the new equipment that was ordered has been or will soon be delivered. The new semi tractor was delivered last week, the new patcher was delivered this week, the brine storage tank is on the way, and the plow trucks will begin delivery in April. He also stated that Clare County sent one of their employees to shadow our mechanics on truck builds, as they are thinking about beginning to do that in-house and were looking for some guidance. Steve said that the mechanics will soon begin to prep equipment for spring.

Art reported that two new hires began last week, and one more will be starting next week. The salt inventory is holding out well, and he has the remainder of our backup salt order coming soon. The early salt order for the 2025/2026 season is due April 2nd. Art also informed the board that frost restrictions will go into effect Monday, March 3rd, at 7 am. He stated that he and several other admin staff completed PASER training last week so that they will remain certified to conduct PASER ratings. He announced to the board that Joel had officially filed his paperwork with MERS to retire in March.

Ashley stated that she attended a Mindful Use of AI training in Mount Pleasant with Jon last week. She has been working on paving maps for the 2025 construction season. She also reported that interviews for GIS summer interns will begin next week.

Commissioner Cozat thanked the road commission staff for helping the fire department with last week's fatal accident.

Larry Schulke thanked Russ for his good stewardship in applying for the grants for summer interns.

Karen from Michigan Chloride clarified that she will be getting in touch with Jon next week regarding the bond for operating the brine trucks on roads during frost restrictions.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Hyatt at 9:31 am until Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Donna Lowe, Finance Director

Jim Hyatt, Vice-Chair