

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

February 16, 2017

Regular Meeting - Administrative Office, Lawrence, Michigan

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 16th day of February, 2017 at 7:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular session in the offices in Lawrence, Michigan.

PRESENT: Road Commissioners Askew, Boze, Kinney, Ray, and Svilpe
Accountant Gregory M. Pardike
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Attorney Kelly Page
Administrative Secretary Jill Brien

GUESTS: Janae Resh, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Tammie Wood, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Jaysyn M. Quarry, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Jeff Paulson, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Michelle Henry, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Bonnie Pardike
Jon Sytsma, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Jeff Baker, Silver Oaks Neighborhood
Nick Simkos, Silver Oaks Neighborhood

Chairman Askew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Kinney requested a Legal Update item be added to the Agenda as 15A. Moved by Ray, seconded by Boze to approve the revised Agenda.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Kinney and seconded by Svilpe to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2017 meeting as presented by Board Secretary Pardike.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment.

Tammie Wood of the Silver Oaks Neighborhood brought a Petition to the Board to protect the extension of Silver Oaks Boulevard. She wanted the Board to be aware that the neighborhood residents object to being connected to the newly proposed subdivision. Ms. Wood stated that Silver Oaks is a “single loop” neighborhood with one entrance-exit. She believes that the extension would bring negative impacts as their road has already been capped after only 14 years and the additional vehicles would only deteriorate the road further. In addition, she believes that the additional traffic poses a danger to children. Also, she believes that their property values would be negatively impacted because of the additional traffic.

Jon Sytsma addressed the Board. He stated that Silver Oaks is a quiet neighborhood of 44 houses with one loop. He feels that the addition of a new subdivision creating a mile-long roadway in a subdivision is “insanity”. He recognized how speed limits are set in Michigan, and feels that speeds could pose a danger to children. He provided the Board with pictures of a subdivision in Kalamazoo wherein speed bumps were placed adjacent to stop signs to slow traffic in a long stretch. He stressed the importance of following sound designing and intelligent connectivity of the roads within the proposed subdivision.

Jeff Baker brought similar concerns to the Board regarding the proposed plat and stressed that he does not object any new homes going in, and that the neighborhood is not trying to hinder Powell Construction from building. He feels that connectivity between the two neighborhoods using bike paths is good.

Jeff Paulson stated that his main concern is speed. Providing a pedestrian/bike path as a connection to the neighborhoods should be a requirement in his opinion. It is his feeling that emergency response is not a reason to connect the two neighborhoods as emergency responders would not “cut through” a residential area, they would take the main roads.

Janae Resh stated that her home was affected the most because she is the last house in Silver Oaks before the newly proposed subdivision. She feels that homes in Silver Oaks sell quickly because kids can “play in the street”. Neighbors can “chat in the street” and not worry when a car goes by. She also believes that the extra traffic will cause further road deterioration.

Jaysyn Quarry addressed the Board. He stated that he is the least affected property owner in the subdivision as he is the first house as one enters. He feels that if there is a problem with someone driving too fast now you just “shake a stick” and they slow down. He shared the sentiments and concerns of his neighbors who already spoke.

Commissioner Askew reminded the neighborhood residents that Antwerp Township has already approved the process through its Planning Commission. Any neighborhood concerns should have been taken up with Antwerp Township prior to its approval. Several residents stated that Antwerp Township clearly expressed to them at the Township meeting earlier this week that this is the Road Commission’s responsibility.

Svilpe stated that he understood first hand the concerns brought this evening; however, this has been Powell’s plan all along. At some point the Road Commission will conduct a Traffic Study to review the various traffic concerns that have been brought. Svilpe addressed the benefits of connectivity with emergency responders.

Ray stated that the Board heard and understood the concerns brought by the Neighborhood. The effected plats were approved some time ago, and times have changed. He assured the neighborhood representatives that the Road Commission will conduct an Impact Study to understand not only access, but also traffic to and from the other subdivisions.

Anttila provided clarification to the Neighborhood and Board as to where the Road Commission is at in the process. The Road Commission currently has preliminary plans only and will be scheduling a sit down meeting with Powell.

Kinney expressed that residents can contact the Road Commission to check on the status of the proposed extension. He explained the Service Request System and encouraged residents to call with questions or concerns.

At this time all of the Silver Oaks Neighborhood residents left the Board meeting.

The following bids were opened and read at 7:30 PM for Roadside Brush Spraying, Phragmites and Selective Guardrail Treatment:

Contractor	Brush Spray Price Per Gallon	Selective Guardrail Treatment Price Per Gallon	Phragmites Price Per Gallon
Daltons	\$0.97	\$0.97	\$2.45
Right Way Control	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85
DeAngelo Brothers	\$1.01	\$1.01	\$1.65
Trugreen	\$1.45	\$1.45	\$2.45

Motion by Ray, seconded by Kinney to authorize the Engineer-Manager to award upon tabulation and review by staff, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The following bids were opened and read for Contract Gravel:

(Chairman only read contractors’ bids for Almena Township as a representative of the bid price)

Per Ton Almena Township	
Kalin Construction	\$8.85
Aggregate Industries	\$8.20
Red Arrow Transport	No Bid
Yerington	\$7.00
StoneCo of Michigan	\$7.15
R. Smith & Sons	\$9.66
Brusky	\$7.10

Motion by Ray, seconded by Boze to authorize the Engineer-Manager to award upon tabulation and review by staff, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission and the respective Township.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The Board reviewed communications received late this afternoon from Antwerp Township. Antwerp Township is asking that the Board reconsider its position with regard to allowing “township to have the ability to bid local (minor) road projects within their own jurisdictions”. Additionally, Antwerp Township provided a resolution “dated January, again, opposing current method of distribution of County Road millage for primary roads”. Attorney Page also reviewed and discussed a proposed legislation amendment from Senator Tonya Schuitmaker. Discussions were held regarding the current project process relating to pricing, performance, quality, etc. Discussions also held regarding the road millage ballot language, and the formula utilized by the Road Commission to allocate millage funds to the townships. Motion by Kinney, seconded by Boze to authorize the Engineer-Manager to prepare a response to Antwerp Township’s correspondence stating that the issues have been reconsidered and there is no change in the Board’s position.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

The Board Secretary-Accountant provided a review of the operating budgets and operating fund. Snow and ice funds so far in 2017 total \$255,000.00 (snow and ice funds totaled \$901,000 at the end of February, 2016). \$130,000 of that savings has been in salt. Pardike requested that the Board approve a revision in the 2017 Budget as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Revised</u>
A.O.F. - January 1 st	\$5,562,248.00	\$6,668,654.45
Operating Fund Balance	\$4,400,134.00	\$5,506,540.45

Motion by Svilpe, seconded by Ray.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Boze, seconded by Ray to approve the following Road Commission Vouchers:

Voucher #1956	\$99,998.23
Voucher #1957	\$102,714.48

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Pardike discussed with the Board a verbal request that had been brought to vacate 38th Street from Paw Paw Road north to I94 in Paw Paw Township. The Road Commission received correspondence from the Village of Paw Paw opposing any request to abandon this portion of 38th Street. Ray provided some history regarding the Village's use of 38th Street to access the Village's water lagoons for maintenance.

Pardike discussed the excess distributor truck and requested that the Board consider listing it for sale to other road commissions on the ListServe. We had a good response selling the brooms and doubled our profit versus a trade-in. Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to sell Unit #477 at a price to be determined by staff.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Road Commissioner's Township Meeting Attendance Report

From February 2nd to present:

Askew: South Haven Township, provided an update on Evergreen Bluff project. Covert Township, all is well. Geneva Township, happy with bids on CR380 projects. Bangor Township, requested update on plans on CR376. Attended SW Council Meeting.

Boze: Keeler Township, all is good. Commissioner Boze did apologize for the condition of the gravel roads and said they would be out to grade as soon as conditions allowed. Lawrence Township, discussed 52nd Street washout. Needs work in spring. Hartford Township, all is good. Hamilton Township, turned in all road plans for this season. All is good.

Kinney: Decatur Township, satisfied with tree removals on Burgess Road. Regarding Old Swamp Road, they would like to see it graded once per week. Also attended SW Council meeting.

Ray: Bloomingdale Township, discussed water over road on CR390 at 37½ Street. Police Officer discussion with Shane Moris regarding cars being sold on CR388 at 12th Avenue. He congratulated Township Board on their involvement with county roads, and expressed his general feelings of improved communications with the township in general.

Svilpe: Almena Township, no issues. Porter Township, no issues. Antwerp Township, issues regarding road project bidding process which were expressed in communication from Supervisor Ruzick. Also same issues brought to township that were expressed tonight by Silver Oaks neighborhood residents.

Construction Update

Highway Engineer Barry Anttila reported on the following:

- Grade Inspections on CR687 South of Hartford and Blue Star Highway in South Haven Township.
- CR380, Geneva Township approved 62nd to 60th Street. Also approved tree work from CR681 to 60th Street.
- Attended the Engineer's Workshop January 30 to February 2nd.
- Attended the Asphalt Paving Conference in Battle Creek yesterday and today. Good presenters; useful topics.
- CR687 North of Hartford and Blue Star Highway, Road Commission crews will be performing the tree work as it is minor and should not take long to accomplish.

Commissioner Ray asked about the status of the request to transfer the jurisdiction of a section of CR388 to the City of South Haven.

Engineer-Manager's update given by Board Secretary-Accountant, Pardike:

- Township Supervisor's Meeting on February 23rd at 7:00 PM at Van Buren Conference Center. Jill to post Public Notice of Board's attendance.

- New Road Commission truck will be on display at CRA Road Show, March 14-15 during the Highway Conference.
- New Commissioners’ Workshop on March 14th, Lansing; Road Commissioners Seminar on April 9-11, Bay City. New Commissioners’ Handbooks are being rolled out by the CRA, first at seminars, then via mail.

Legal Update. None at this time.

Motion by Svilpe, seconded by Boze to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 8:28 PM.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary

Chairman