

**Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners**

Thursday, March 6, 2014  
Regular Meeting - Administrative Office, Lawrence, Michigan

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014 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  
Engineer-Manager Lawrence B. Hummel, P.E.  
Accountant Gregory M. Pardike  
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila

GUESTS: John Vargo

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

No additions/deletions to the Agenda.

Motion by Svilpe, seconded by Ray to approve the Agenda.

AYES:5  
NAYS:0  
MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Svilpe and seconded by Ray to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting as presented by Board Secretary Pardike.

AYES:5  
NAYS:0  
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. None was received.

The Board Secretary-Accountant provided a review of the operating budgets and operating fund. March MTF received was approximately \$524,000, which is up approximately \$16,000 over last year; expenditures of \$1,387,000 YTD for snow and ice. Budget is \$1,650,000 for 2014. Requested line item transfer of \$50,000 from primary winter maintenance to local winter maintenance. Motion by Svilpe, seconded by Askew.

AYES:5  
NAYS:0  
MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Svilpe, seconded by Askew to approve the following Road Commission Vouchers:

Voucher #1784	\$94,444.02
Voucher #1785	\$141,773.25

AYES:5  
NAYS:0  
MOTION CARRIED.

The following bids were received at 7:30 PM for Gravel Resurfacing:

Township	Yerrington Bros	Stone Co.	Kalin Construction	Aggregate Industries	RS Smith & Sons	Brusky Construction
Almena	6.58	5.90	7.40	6.15	6.14	5.34
Arlington	6.00	5.35	6.95	6.93	6.23	5.39
Bangor	6.64	6.15	7.92	8.00	6.66	6.19
Bloomington	7.50	7.17	8.35	5.60	5.76	5.29
Columbia	7.10	6.70	7.92	5.70	6.38	5.71

Decatur	5.84	5.45	6.41	5.65	6.71	5.10
Geneva	6.85	6.20	No Bid	6.50	6.53	6.39
Hamilton	5.84	5.66	6.41	7.05	6.23	4.75
Hartford	6.00	5.50	No Bid	6.61	7.10	5.58
Keeler	6.01	6.41	6.95	7.25	5.98	4.89
Lawrence	5.35	5.25	6.41	7.05	6.38	5.34
Paw Paw	5.60	5.25	6.41	5.65	6.05	4.99
Pine Grove	7.30	7.15	8.35	6.75	5.91	5.25
Porter	6.42	6.60	7.40	7.30	7.70	5.25
VBCRC Boudreau Pit	5.55	4.95	6.00	7.05	5.98	4.92
VBCRC Bangor Garage	6.50	6.25	7.40	7.50	6.66	6.34
VBCRC Bloomingdale Garage	7.45	7.30	8.35	5.60	5.71	5.30

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

AYES:5  
NAYS:0  
MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners re-signed the Coversheet for the project on CR354.

Pardike and Hummel reviewed the current OPEB Valuation Report and provided details on the report from Watkins Ross. Multiple discussion points occurred on the pros and cons of funding levels. Commissioner Kinney provided perspective on the retirement liability costs.

Pardike provided details on the current Pension Valuation Report from Watkins Ross. Motion by Ray, seconded by Boze to contribute \$200,000 (approximately \$30,000 over minimum required).

AYES:5  
NAYS:0  
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Svilpe, seconded by Ray to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS non-motorized transportation, including snowmobiles under certain conditions, is an important element for the health and quality of life for residents and an economic development tool for the communities of Van Buren County and Southwest Michigan as well as a popular recreational activity for visitors to enhance their overall travel experience; and

WHEREAS the “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan” recommends linking trailways together, gaining cooperation to encourage regional and statewide collaboration, and to create a “statewide trailways network that will provide transportation, leisure, recreation and community benefits and encourage residents’ active participation and support” with railway activities; and

WHEREAS the Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Transportation Plan: Connecting Communities: A Regional Vision for Non-Motorized Transportation in Southwest Michigan (2011) and the Van Buren County Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan (2011) identifies the corridor between Hartford and Paw Paw as a priority project; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan (2011) lists land and water trail connections throughout the county as a high priority; and,

WHEREAS developing a connected non-motorized system, to include snowmobiles under certain conditions, will take a collaborative effort of local, county, regional, State and Federal agencies; and,

WHEREAS the rail line between Lawrence and Paw Paw is a crucial link in the overall non-motorized (and snowmobiles under certain conditions) and green infrastructure network in southwest Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Railroad Co. has filed the necessary paperwork with the Surface Transportation Board to abandon approximately 10.67 miles of rail line between Lawrence, Michigan (west of the line's crossing of 56<sup>th</sup> Street) and Paw Paw, Michigan (east of Kalamazoo Street); and,

WHEREAS, it is believed that eventually the remaining rail line between Lawrence and Hartford will eventually be abandoned by West Michigan Railroad Co.; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County supports the concept of continuing to add non-motorized connections to places where people live, work and play and will participate in a partnership to develop, maintain and operate a non-motorized facility, to include snowmobiles under certain conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Van Buren County hereby endorses acquiring the West Michigan Railroad Co. rail line from Hartford to Paw Paw for public use as a non-motorized connection and supports the exploration of funding options for acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of this critical non-motorized corridor, to include snowmobiles under certain conditions.

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION PASSED.

Hummel and Boze provided details on the need to "push out" the Local Roads Matter to Michigan campaign to the residents of the County, Township, Service Clubs, etc.

### **Road Commissioner's Township Meeting Attendance Report**

From February 20<sup>th</sup> to present:

Askew: Attended CRAM Annual Conference

Boze: Attended the CRAM Annual Conference; Keeler Township, let them know that if they have complaints or need to report potholes to contact the office with details. Resident complained about contract snow plowing West Oak Street. Contractor did not come until 11 AM; she called at 7 AM. Will have staff review.

Kinney: Attended CRAM Annual Conference

Ray: No meetings. Received concerns on CR388 at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue curve. Pavement surface is raveling/segregating quickly. When hot mix is available staff will look to do a lasting repair.

Svilpe: No meetings.

No Road Commissioner request for special per diem.

Highway Engineer Barry Anttila reported on the following:

- Attended CRAM Annual Conference.
- Completed CR354 Federal Aid project for submittal.
- Finishing Decatur estimates. Hopes to have prior to their next meeting.
- Bridge Conference March 18 and 19.
- Provided Waverly Township with several estimates for 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Aggregate Technician Recertification next week.

- Bloomingdale Township has estimates for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. Several quotes: full road, or pipe only.

Engineer-Manager Update(s):

- Frost restrictions coming soon. Tentatively March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Legal Issues:**

None.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Askew to recess the regular meeting at 9:11 PM to open a Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works.

AYES:5

NAYS:0

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Ray, seconded by Svilpe to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners at 9:18 PM with all members present.

AYES:5

NAYS:0

MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Svilpe and seconded by Askew to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 9:19 PM.

AYES:5

NAYS:0

MOTION CARRIED.

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Secretary

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Chairman