

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Benzie County was called to order by Chairman Nuske at their offices in Honor, Michigan on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 9:30 AM.

Present: Chairman Nuske
Vice Chairman Rosa
Member Mick
Manager Skeels
Superintendent Schaub
Clerk Jordan

Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Mick to accept the amended agenda adding equipment purchase. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

The minutes of the regular meeting on October 22, 2015 were accepted as presented.

Motion by Comm Mick and supported by Comm Nuske to pay bills # 42456 to # 42532 for the amount of \$ 174,597.00 and Payroll 22 & 23 for \$ 84,038.03 Ayes: Nuske and Mick. Abstain: Rosa. Motion carried.

Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Mick to pay the EFT for Brenner Oil for \$ 30,809.52. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Mick to pay the EFT for MERS for \$ 31,395.79. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Superintendent's report – Seasonal drivers were difficult to find this year. Six of them have started already, and one is starting in a week or so. It would be nice to have one more.

Public Input: Ron Evitts - Colfax Twp - Thurman and Bentley Rds are getting alot of use from grouse hunters.

Standing Guest: Gary Sauer - County Commissioner Liaison-Brought the Commissioners up to date on the county business.

New Business:

10:00 Kay Bond - Aylsworth Rd - Ms Bond believes that the estimate to open up 500' of seasonal road is too much compared to the 2006 estimate of 260' that her neighbor had opened up. She asked that we compare the estimates and show her in writing why her estimate seems so much higher. Brad explained that one of the main expenses are the many stumps that need to be removed. The estimate from 2006 did not include any stump removal. The Road Commission will review the estimate for her and respond in writing.

10:15 - Permit for 7249 Deadstream - Mr Stephenson asked the board for a variance on the width of their 'driveway'. Previously, this entire area was covered with limestone. With the repaving of Deadstream Rd, there was a considerable drop off the edge of the road. The entry to their property is about 70' wide and they have placed permeable pavers alongside the road to minimize the slope and allow for parking in this limited area. Our regulations call for a maximum of 30' for residential driveways. Motion by Comm Nuske and supported by Comm

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Mick to allow the extra width and permeable pavers. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

10:30 John Schor- Haze Rd - Mr. Schor feels that the logging companies that are destroying our roads should be paying to fix them. He feels that the Road Commission has been remiss by not having a policy that requires that roads be bonded during logging operations. The Road Commission will research logging policies of other road commissions and develop a policy. Mr. Schor also felt that Haze Rd between Landis and Wallin Rds should never have been put on Seasonal Road status. He would like it removed from Seasonal status. Although contrary to our policy, the board has agreed to hold a public hearing to remove that portion of Haze Rd from Seasonal status, without the required upgrade responsibility agreed upon.

Permit from Michigan Logos - Motion by Comm Nuske and supported by Comm Rosa to approve the permit from Michigan Logos to install a Tourist Oriented Directional Sign on Reynolds Rd approaching Maple St for Lake Ann Brewery. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Permit from Long Lake Twp - Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Mick to allow Long Lake Twp to place a Cedar Run Creek Natural Area sign on the seasonal portion of Tucker Rd and to waive the permit fee. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Request from Benzie Recycling - Motion by Comm Nuske and supported by Comm Mick to allow the Benzie County Recycling Program to conduct a Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Event on Saturday, July 23, 2015 providing adequate insurance is in place. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Health Insurance - Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Nuske to require employee contributions for health care premiums to follow the Hard Cap rule for 2016. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Administrative wages - Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Nuske to increase the wages of the administrative staff by 2.5% with the exception of the payroll clerk who will see a \$ 1.00/hour increase due to additional responsibilities, effective November 16, 2015. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Cole vs Benzie County - Our attorney, Bill Henn has asked if the Board wants Coles to plant the trees required on the Crystal Lake property. The Board would like to wait until spring at this time. Instead of paying for a survey to determine if the gate Cole installed is on his property or county property, they would like us to start the process of placing a culvert in the ditch for trail access. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Nostwick Rd Bridge - Matt provided the commissioners with copies of correspondence to Ellen Knudsen, Ron Evitts and Brad Link regarding the Nostwick Rd bridge. He is continuing to work with residents to provide access to properties by heavy trucks over the winter. Brad Link's letter regarding rail car bridges was discussed and further detailed information will be provided including meeting w/ MDEQ regarding permitting requirements.

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Equipment purchase - Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Mick to purchase the Cat excavator from Michigan Caterpillar for the cost of \$153,450 which includes the trade in value of the old excavator, tar distributor, chip spreader and trailer for \$104,500. Brad will meet with the Cat salesman to go over the trade-in information. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Correspondence/Information:

MDEQ - Approval of Closure Report on the underground storage tank release.

MERS - MERS is restructuring their calculation processes to bring required contributions into line with actual results to begin to solve the unfunded liabilities. Motion by Comm Rosa and supported by Comm Nuske to apply refunds, not previously budgeted, to MERS to make an effort to reduce the unfunded liability. Ayes: Nuske, Rosa and Mick. Motion carried.

Fuel System Update - Matt, Brad and Mike Johnson met with the purchasers of Buds to outline fuel usage and needs of the Road Commission and other municipalities.

MTF funding increase-information only.

Public Input: None

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Approved 12/17/15

W. John Nuske, Chairman

Kathleen A, Jordan, Clerk