

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Benzie County was called to order by Chairman Rosa at the Road Commission offices in Honor, Michigan on Thursday July 23, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Present:            Chairman Bob Rosa                            Manager Matt Skeels  
                  Vice-Chairman James Bowers             Deputy Clerk Patricia Cote  
                  Member Ted Mick

The agenda was accepted as presented.

The June 25, 2020 minutes were accepted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to pay bills #47278 to #47362 in the amount of \$568,281.83, and Payroll #14, #14a, #15, & #15a for \$133,925.36. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Rosa and supported by Commissioner Bowers to approve the MERS EFT in the amount of \$55,034.90. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **Cash Summary:**

#### **Work Summary:**

**Mike Johnson** – The roofs were refinished last week. Grand Traverse Diesel and Daimler Western Star approached the Benzie County Road Commission to participate in a pilot program to help gather information on a new prototype truck with a DD12 automatic transmission. In exchange for the drivers keeping notes on how the truck operates for feedback to the testers, we would be given the use of a brand-new Western Star truck for 18 months free of charge. They would fully outfit the truck, and after 18 months we would return the truck to them for testing. We would have the option of purchasing any added equipment at the end of the trial. Fuel, insurance and maintenance would be our responsibility. Our two new trucks have arrived ahead of schedule and are sitting at Grand Traverse Diesel waiting to be outfitted with equipment.

**Scott Fasel** – N/A

**Matt Skeels** – New Financial Manager, Joe Nedow from Leelanau County, will begin on August 10, 2020. Talked with Heather about the Pioneer Rd./King Rd. project. DJ McQuestion is to begin milling on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>, paving on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, pavement markings on Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, and second markings on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. A crew member was hit while flagging on Marshall Rd. last week. His foot was run over, and in his attempt to jump out of the way, he pulled some muscles in his hip. He was seen at urgent care and released the same day. Police are investigating. Anna Grobe, supervisor of Lake Township, will be at our next meeting to discuss the issue of the actual cost of asphalt prices coming in at \$20,000.00 over the estimated/budgeted cost. We approved the Mitten Race for Crystal Mountain to take place on September 6, 2020. Crystal Surveying is surveying the Fewins Pit. The road on the North side wanders off of our property. We will fix the problem. The sign company gave Andrew some solutions for Nov., Dec., and Jan., the low sun months, for the Reynolds Rd. and Cedar Run Rd. intersection. Commissioner Rosa stated that a friend witnessed someone run the stop sign at that intersection.

**Standing guest: Gary Sauer, County Commissioner** – Gave a report on the latest meeting of the Benzie County Board of Commissioners as well as activities and events in and around the county.

## **Public Input: None**

### **Items Before the Board:**

#### *Crystal Lake Watershed – Invasive Species Signage on public access roads at boat launches.*

Dave Wynne was present to request permission for the Crystal Lake Watershed to post signage requesting the public to wash their boats at the public washing stations before putting them into our lake at the public access points on Crystal Lake that fall under the jurisdiction of the Benzie County Road Commission. Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to allow the placement of the signs after verifying with the BCRC that they are going to meet our specifications for the placement of signs within the road right of way. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### *Bid Awards for Bottomless Arch on Weldon Road over Carter Creek*

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to award the bid to Contech Engineered Solutions. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### *Bid Award for Sheet Piling on Weldon Road over Carter Creek*

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to award the bid to Adams Marine Construction. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

*Esch Road Engineering Discussion* – Next year's Federal Access Road Grant for Esch Road upgrade. The bottom of the hill has 1 foot deep of unsuitable soil. They could float the road over the unsuitable soil, but Scott does not recommend that. Heather said that 1 foot by 300 feet of floating would cost approximately \$35,000.00. If we were to excavate the unsuitable soil it would cost around \$23,000.00. Esch Road is a primary road and we could use Primary Millage Funds if needed. No motion needed. Commissioners Rosa and Bowers agreed the unsuitable soil should be removed.

#### *Pay Off Loader Lease – Buyout price is \$91,519.75, Warranty is \$10,730.00 = \$102,249.75 total.*

The lease for the loader is up and the Benzie County Road Commission will pay off the balance rather than take out a new lease on another loader. No motion needed.

*Union Contract Letter of Agreement* – Manager Skeels recommended that in addition to accepting the letter of agreement with the Union, that the board also extend the \$500.00 bonus from the Union agreement to the admin staff in lieu of an annual raise this year. Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Rosa to accept the agreement and recommendation, which will postpone the contract negotiations until 2021. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

*Seasonal Road Hearing Date* – for Oakley road between CR-669 and Bowers Road, as well as any others that may come up between now and September 24, 2020. Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Rosa to set a hearing date for the board meeting scheduled on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence/Information/Discussion:**

*Weir Road* – The road is currently blocked by a locked chain over the entrance. The road serves as an access to the weir from the other side of the river. BCRC will go out there with the skid steer and the brush hog and try to make it passable.

*River Road 2020-2021 Federal Project* – Paving River Road from Benzonia to the Betsie River. There is enough money to pave over the river, but the culverts aren't in very good condition. It is estimated that there is only about 15 years of life left in them. We are checking with Heather to get the cost of going over the river, but the guardrail would make it expensive.

Benzonia Township paid to re-brine Higgins Road due to the excessive traffic it has gotten this year.

*Ron Wohlford Review of Financial Statements for the First 9 Months* – Manager Skeels presented the financial statements for the third quarter and offered to place a conference call to our accountant, Ron Wohlford if there were any questions. There were no questions.

*MDOT Intersection Painting* – MDOT has a safety grant that they have proposed to use on some of our skewed intersections to direct traffic to T-up to the intersection for better visibility. Yellow centerlines and stop bars would be added at each intersection.

*Western Star Demo Truck* – Covered in Mike Johnson's Work Summary above.

**Public Input: None**

**Board Round Table:** Commissioner Rosa discussed the proposed workshare of \$200.00 instead of \$600.00.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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Robert Rosa, Chairman

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Patricia Cote, Deputy Clerk