



Discussion: None.

Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

Commissioner Rosa then opened the hearing at 10:09 a.m.

No comments from the public, either written or oral were offered.

Skeels stated the road was upgraded several years ago with funds provided by a developer with the intent to plow it during the winter. But as poor economic conditions postponed this developer from actively selling lots, the decision was made to not plow it and leave the existing seasonal road designation alone for the time being. Recently, Skeels had been contacted by this developer who informed him that he is proceeding with selling lots, and he asked the Road Commission to remove the seasonal road designation on that segment between CR-669 and Bowers Road accordingly so that this part of the road can be plowed during the winter months as originally intended.

Commissioner Rosa then closed the public hearing at 10:11 a.m. and returned to open session.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to remove the seasonal road designation for Oakley Road from CR-669 to Bowers Road therefore designating that segment as an all-season road so that it can be plowed during the winter months.

Discussion: None. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

**Appointments:**

At 10:15 a.m. the Board met with Benzie County Schools Superintendent Aimee Erfourth and Director of Operations Mike Zielinski to discuss the vacant Platte Elementary School building/property. Erfourth gave a brief summary why the school had been closed citing low student enrollment and high cost to update the facility. Given the funding challenges facing the school district, Erfourth is here to pursue the possibility of BCRC taking over the property.

Further discussion ensued. Commissioner Rosa informed Erfourth that while the Board has previously expressed interest in acquiring this property, there is no agreement or formal commitment at this point. He expressed his disappointment that rumors are circulating through the community that there is a formal agreement between the School District and the Road Commission which to him appear to be politically motivated in to gather support for the upcoming school millage request that voters had previously rejected. He then informed Erfourth that until the November millage proposal has been settled, any discussions concerning the Road Commission acquiring the Platte Elementary School property would be premature. Commissioner Bowers then stated his support of Commissioner Rosa's comments and added he too would prefer to wait until after the November elections to determine how to proceed.

**Public Hearing – proposed 2021 Road Commission budget:**

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to open the public hearing to hear comments regarding the proposed 2021 Road Commission budget.

Discussion: None. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

Commissioner Rosa then opened the public hearing at 10:30 a.m.

Finance Manager Nedow provided a summary how the budget was prepared, with MTF revenues based upon revised MDOT projections conservatively modified in the event future COVID related downturn in road-related revenue. This year's budget is being presented in greater detail so that staff can measure their spending against individual budget line items/categories.

No comments from the public, either written or oral were offered.

Commissioner Rosa then closed the public hearing at 10:58 a.m.

**Items Before the Board:**

*Cast vote on proposed amendment to MCRCSIP By-Laws that would allow county-controlled road agencies to participate in the Pool as Associate Members but not allowed to vote or hold office –* Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Rosa to vote “No” on the MCRISP ballot asking the membership to amend the Pool’s By-Laws allowing county-controlled road agencies to participate in the Pool.

Discussion: None. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

*Authorize Manager to sign cooperative agreement with Conservation Resource Alliance – funding culvert replacements at Stanley Road/Brundage Creek & Carmean Road/Brundage Creek –* Skeels explained the CRA is providing funding up to \$37,000.00 to help offset the cost for these two culvert replacement projects, with the Road Commission providing the labor, equipment and culvert sections.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to authorize Manager Skeels to sign a cooperative agreement between the Road Commission and the Conservation Resource Alliance that includes funding for two culvert replacement projects at Stanley Road/Brundage Creek and Carmean Road/Brundage Creek.

Discussion: None. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

*Approve Resolution 2020-08-adopt 2021 budget –*

Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers to adopt Resolution 2020-08 which reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that a public hearing was held on September 24, 2020 with no oral or written inquiries received regarding the proposed budget, and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be both the general appropriation resolution and the budget adoption resolution of the Benzie County Road Commission for the year ended September 30, 2020. This resolution adopts proposed revenues and expenditures as presented in the accompanying budget document. Total revenues are adopted as \$7,901,892.00 and total expenditures as \$7,213,227.00, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that no Benzie County Road Commission member or employee of the Commission shall expend any funds or obligate any expenditure except pursuant to appropriations authorized by the budget document. Changes in amounts appropriated by the Commission shall require approval of the Commission, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Finance Manager Joel T. Nedow is hereby charged with general supervision of the execution of the budget adopted by the Commission, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution is to take effect October 1, 2020.

Roll call vote: Rosa – aye; Bowers – aye and Mick - aye. Nays: None. - Resolution 20-06 is hereby adopted.

*Request to amend the 2020 Road Commission budget –*

Nedow provided the request that is based upon year-to-date actual revenues and expenditures that require adjustments before year-end.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Rosa to adjust the Benzie County Road Commission budget as follows:

For revenues:

MTF-Primary Roads - decrease \$325,000.00; MTF-Local Roads – decrease \$200,000.00; MTF-Snow Removal Funds – increase \$18,000.00; State of Michigan-Routine Maintenance – increase

\$40,000.00 and the State of Michigan – TWA projects – increase \$100,000.00 (both increases also apply to the offsetting expenditure categories); State Trunkline Audit – increase \$205,000.00; Millage Proceeds – increase \$30,000.00; Federal Aid Funds – increase \$225,000.00; Gain/Loss on Sale of Equipment – increase \$20,000.00; Other Grants – decrease \$200,000.00; Other Contributions – decrease \$80,000.00 and Village Contributions – decrease \$100,000.00.

For Expenditures:

Primary Road-Preventative – increase \$500,000.00; Primary Road-Routine – increase \$300,000.00; Administrative-Net – increase \$30,000.00 and Debt Principle – increase \$90,000.00.

Discussion: None. Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

*Request to route MDOT trunkline audit refund into MERS Defined Benefit – surplus division unfunded pension liability –*

Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers authorizing the Finance Manager to route \$200,000.00 of the \$204,577.00 State of Michigan Trunkline audit refund received earlier this summer into the Road Commission’s MERS defined benefit – Surplus Division unfunded pension liability as doing so would be in the best interests of the Benzie County Road Commission.

Discussion: Commissioner Rosa asked for clarification as to why staff is asking for this approval. Skeels responded that the amount requested exceeds dollar threshold that the Manager can approve and because past discussions with the Board suggested any insurance or audit refunds received should be applied against the outstanding unfunded pension liability.

Ayes: Rosa, Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

**Correspondence/Information/Discussion:**

Skeels reported all of this season’s paving projects have been completed. However, the Pioneer and King Road project is not going to happen this year as one of the two entities contracted for this project, DJ McQuestion & Sons, has not been able to resolve their labor issues with Elmers’ Crane & Dozer. As a result, McQuestion’s contract extension is due to expire by November 1, 2020 unless they can complete the terms of the contract to avoid defaulting.

**Public Input:** Sauer asked Skeels if there was any thought to increasing the yearly millage money allocation to townships this year. Skeels stated that the plan is to set aside the same funding level as last year.

**Board Round Table:** None.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Robert Rosa, Chairman

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Joel Nedow, Clerk