

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 **March 11, 2021** at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chairman Bob Rosa Vice-Chairman James Bowers  
Member Ted Mick Finance Manager/Clerk Joe Nedow  
Manager Matt Skeels

Guests: Gary Sauer, County Commissioner. The public was also invited to attend via telephone conferencing due to COVID concerns.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

February 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to pay bills #50342 to #50387 in the amount of \$76,708.41 and Payroll #5 for \$66,004.33.

Discussion: None.

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

**Cash Summary:** Reviewed – no comments offered.

**Work Summary:**

-Reviewed written report summarizing the tasks and activities completed or in-progress for the Manager and for each department head.

**Standing guest: Gary Sauer, County Commissioner** – Presented an oral report for items/issues the Benzie County Board of Commissioners is dealing with as well as events impacting local government from around Benzie County.

**Public Input:** None.

**Items Before the Board:**

***Shoulder restoration bid-Cinder Road paving project:***

Skeels stated that after the Board had rejected all the shoulder restoration bids at their February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff had reviewed this summer's project list and concluded that it would be more efficient to have an outside contractor do the shoulder restoration work for Cinder Road. Bids were opened and read at 9:00 a.m. on March 10<sup>th</sup> with one bid for \$43,417.60 received from Rieth-Riley.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to accept the \$43,417.60 bid submitted by Reith-Riley for shoulder restoration work on Cinder Road.

Discussion: None.

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

***Guardrail bid-Action Traffic Maintenance:***

Nedow stated he had received a phone call from this vendor after the other guardrail bids had been accepted and learned that because of some confusion regarding the bid process, this offer was overlooked. To be fair to all parties, he is recommending accepting this bid as a secondary supplier.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Rosa to accept the guardrail bid submitted by Action Traffic Maintenance as a secondary supplier for the ensuing year.

Discussion: None.

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

***Love Road paving project update:***

Skeels reported staff may have to postpone this project as efforts to secure a grading easement for property located at the top of the hill to be lowered have been unsuccessful so far. He is enlisting the aid from the former

Benzonia Township Supervisor to try intercede on our behalf with the land owner but the likelihood of obtaining permission is doubtful. As such, Skeels offered the following options: proceed with this project as is without lowering the hill at this time which is the primary goal; do no local road paving and keep the funds in the bank which is not advisable given the low interest rates and lower than anticipated asphalt prices; or postpone Love Road project until another year and pursue other local road paving projects. This option would require meeting with the Local Road Millage Committee to agree to the alternative projects staff would be recommending.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to postpone the Love Road project indefinitely and authorized Skeels to put together a list of recommended local road paving projects for the Local Road Committee to consider for this summer. Skeels to schedule a meeting with the Committee early next week so that a bid package can be sent out to the asphalt contractors as soon as possible.

***Request to adopt resolutions for three separate locations to submit for inclusion in Critical Bridge Program:***

-Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers to adopt the following Resolution 2021-02 which reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the **Lindy Road Bridge** that crosses the Betsie River is severely deteriorated and it is under capacity by design,

**WHEREAS**, given the current condition of the bridge, extensive maintenance and repair of the existing structure is not an efficient use of public funds,

**WHEREAS**, this bridge spans the Betsie River, a Natural Beauty River, and the deterioration of the bridge and supports detracts from the beauty of the river and surrounding area,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Benzie County Board of Road Commissioners supports this application for Critical Bridge Funds to replace the present structure.

Discussion: None.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Rosa – aye; Commissioner Bowers – aye and Commissioner Mick – aye. Nays: None – Resolution 2021-02 is hereby adopted.

- Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers to adopt the following Resolution 2021-03 which reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the **Nostwick Road Bridge** that crosses the Betsie River is severely deteriorated and it is under capacity by design. The weight limit is now posted at a sixteen-ton limit,

**WHEREAS**, given the current condition of the bridge, extensive maintenance and repair of the existing structure is not an efficient use of public funds,

**WHEREAS**, this bridge spans the Betsie River, a Natural Beauty River, and the deterioration of the bridge and supports detracts from the beauty of the river and surrounding area,

**WHEREAS**, this is a dead-end road and residents and emergency vehicles do not have a detour route available to them.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Benzie County Board of Road Commissioners supports this application for Critical Bridge Funds to replace the present structure and to eliminate the soil erosion problems at the Betsie River.

Discussion: None.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Rosa – aye; Commissioner Bowers – aye and Commissioner Mick – aye. Nays: None – Resolution 2021-03 is hereby adopted.

- Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers to adopt the following Resolution 2021-04 which reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the **Reynolds Road Bridge** that crosses the Betsie River is severely deteriorated and it is under capacity by design. The weight limit is now posted at a sixteen-ton limit,

**WHEREAS**, given the current condition of the bridge, extensive maintenance and repair of the existing structure is not an efficient use of public funds,

**WHEREAS**, this bridge spans the Betsie River, a Natural Beauty River, and the deterioration of the bridge and supports detracts from the beauty of the river and surrounding area,

**WHEREAS**, emergency vehicles must presently use a detour that doubles response time to this area,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Benzie County Board of Road Commissioners supports this application for Critical Bridge Funds to replace the present structure and to eliminate the soil erosion problems at the Betsie River.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Rosa – aye; Commissioner Bowers – aye and Commissioner Mick – aye. Nays: None – Resolution 2021-04 is hereby adopted.

**Correspondence/Information/Discussion:** None.

**Board Round Table:**

-MTF revenue projections: The impact of COVID is still being felt on this year's MTF receipts which are currently significantly less than the growth forecasted by MDOT but are matching last year's funding levels at this time. Skeels and Nedow will continue to monitor and make adjustments to spending as needed if this trend continues into the summer months.

-Commissioner Rosa suggested the Board could consider the possibility of a second millage to fund the construction of a new facility. Nedow suggested a different option whereby the Road Commission could consider making additional payment toward reducing the unfunded pension liability for a few years before shifting the financial focus toward constructing a new facility, possibly through bonding.

**Public Input:** Sherry Taylor asked if the Road Commission could consider using Eminent Domain as a means addressing the lack of grading easement on the Love Road hilltop. Skeels responded that that process is normally used to obtain ownership of property and in this case, only a grading easement is needed to grant permission for the Road Commission to re-grade the hill outside the road right of way.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

---

Robert Rosa, Chairman

---

Joel Nedow, Clerk