

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 25, 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; Sherry Taylor, Dennis Heniser, Matt Town, Robert Rodell, Dorothy Blank and Anna Grobe Lake Township Supervisor and Clerk and Jim Thompson. The public was also invited to attend via telephone conferencing due to COVID concerns.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

March 11, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to pay bills #50388 to #50417 in the amount of \$207,570.39 and Payroll #6 for \$64,879.92.

Discussion: None.

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

Cash Summary: Reviewed – Nedow explained that \$137,902.78 of this amount was for Truck & Trailer Specialties installing the patrol wing, underbody scraper, sander and other equipment on one of the new Western Star plow trucks.

Work Summary:

-Reviewed written report summarizing the tasks and activities completed or in-progress for the Manager and for each department head. Oral reports were offered by Superintendent Fasel and Fleet Manager Johnson.

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.

Appointments:

Met with contractor Dennis Heniser who is requesting a special use-encroachment permit for shoreline restoration work in the E. Southshore Drive road right of way for his client, Paul Hensel. Heniser explained the high lake level had eroded the dirt around the rocks protecting the shoreline and he is asking permission to install a wood retaining wall to mitigate further erosion. He pointed out that constructing this wall would also protect the road right of way and that it would not encroach further into the right of way than structures already there. Superintendent Fasel stated he does not have any issues with the request.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to approve the encroachment permit application for 1139 Southshore Drive as submitted by Dennis Heniser authorizing him to construct a treated wood shoreline retaining wall within the road right of way.

Discussion: None.

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

Public Input: Heard comments from former Benzie County Road Commission Manager James Thompson who expressed his concerns that public officials need to be diligent with ensuring that Benzie County receives our fair share of special pandemic related special funds distribution.

Items Before the Board:

Award paving bids – Package C (Township/Village funded projects):

HMA paving bids for various Township and Village funded projects were opened and read at the road commission conference room on March 19th which are as follows (in total):

Molon Asphalt = \$168,783.00; Team Elmers' = \$242,847.00 and Reith-Riley = \$226,366.95

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to award the paving Package C to Molon Asphalt.

Discussion: Lake Township representatives Anna Grobe and Dorothy Blank expressed their concerns with Molon's quality of workmanship. Staff assured them that the Road Commission has always held HMA paving contractors to provide quality workmanship regardless of the prices quoted.

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

Award paving bids – Package D and E:

HMA paving bids for various HMA paving projects were opened and read at the road commission conference room on March 24th which are as follows (in total):

Package D (Local millage projects – Fowler/Green Briar, Moss Road, Worden Road and Pond Road)

Molon Asphalt = \$393,154.50; Team Elmers' = \$328,331.00 and Reith-Riley = \$340,217.10

Package E (Primary road – Bendon Road) including shoulder restoration work:

Molon Asphalt = HMA of \$169,368.00 plus shoulder restoration of \$12,336.00 = total of \$181,704.00

Team Elmers' = HMA of \$138,857.60 plus shoulder restoration of \$15,420.00 = total of \$154,277.60

Reith-Riley = HMA of \$137,998.24 plus shoulder restoration of \$15,934.00 = total of \$153,932.24

Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers to award HMA paving Package D (Local millage projects) to Team Elmers'.

Discussion: None.

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

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to award paving package E (primary millage – Bendon Road) including shoulder restoration to Reith-Riley.

Discussion: None.

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

Request to amend 2021 Capital Acquisition budget.

Nedow reported staff is presently shopping for a good used semi-tractor to replace one of our older models. In the event they locate one, he is asking for an amendment to the 2021 budget to cover the possible expenditure.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick to amend the 2021 Capital Acquisition Expenditure budgetary category, increasing it by \$50,000.00 to cover the cost of a potential purchase of a used semi-tractor.

Discussion: None.

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

Request to approve cost share agreement.

Skeels asked the Board to approve a pending cost share agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation to reimburse the Road Commission for approximately \$6,000.00 in engineering costs for the Pond/Grace Road and Reynolds/Cinder Road federal safety projects. Skeels is expecting the formal agreement soon but would like approval as to not hold up the reimbursement.

Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers to approve a pending cost share agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation by which the Road Commission is reimbursed for approximately \$6,000.00 in engineer costs for the Pond/Grace Road and Reynolds/Cinder Road federal safety projects.

Discussion: None.

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

Correspondence/Information/Discussion: None.

Board Round Table:

-Heard reports from Sauer and Skeels that several residents have been in contact with Benzie County officials complaining about the Road Commission's ongoing road right of way brush/tree clearing efforts along various county roads and streets.

Public Input: Lake Township representative Dorothy Blank asked several questions regarding the possible transfer of the Platte River Elementary School property to the Road Commission. She also expressed her opinion that the process needs to be transparent and the community informed as to what the Road Commission will do with the property once they have it. Commissioner Rosa and Bowers informed Blank that at this point, there is no formal offer or acceptance of this property and that preliminary discussions are still ongoing. As such, there is nothing that needs to be divulged until any action is taken by either the Benzie County School district who currently owns the property.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Robert Rosa, Chairman

Joel Nedow, Clerk