

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Benzie County was called to order by Vice-Chairman Bowers at the Road Commission offices in Honor, Michigan on Thursday **April 8, 2021** at 9:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Robert Rosa was absent (but participated orally via telephone)

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

The agenda was accepted as presented.

March 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to pay bills #50418 to #50445 in the amount of \$357,581.11 and Payroll #7 for \$62,604.80.

Discussion: None.

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

Cash Summary: Reviewed – Nedow explained that \$151,728.00 is attributable to the new sign truck and \$113,073.00 for the Michigan County Road Self Insurance Fund annual insurance umbrella policy.

Work Summary:

-Reviewed written report summarizing the tasks and activities completed or in-progress for the Manager and for each department head. An oral report was offered by Fleet Manager Johnson who informed the Board of his intent to list two surplus old Oshkosh plow trucks and a surplus Ford tractor for sale out by the roadside. No objections from the Board were offered.

Nedow stated the anticipated MTF receipts for the month of February was significantly lower than expected and that he will wait until the March revenue distribution report is available later this month to determine if this is a one-time fluke or if this reduction could continue into the spring and summer months.

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: None

Public Input: None.

Items Before the Board:

Request to amend 2021 Revenues and Expenditures budget.

Motion by Commissioner Mick supported by Commissioner Bowers to amend the 2021 Revenue budget, increasing State of Michigan – Trunkline Audit by \$185,000.00 (to recognize the recently received 2019 trunkline audit refund) and to authorize Nedow to channel these funds into our MERS-Surplus Division defined benefit pension plan as pledged in our 2019 approved Corrective Action Plan filed with the State of Michigan for underfunded pension plans) and to increase the 2021 Capital Acquisition budget by \$6,000.00 for the installation of a new cloud-based digital phone system.

Discussion: None.

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

Request to review/approve two special use - right of way permit applications:

Skeels introduced the first application submitted by AJ's Excavating on behalf of George Petritz, asking for permission to allow directional boring under Crystal Drive for a septic system installation.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Mick granting approval for the Special use – right of way permit application submitted by George Petritz to allow directional boring under Crystal Drive (between Spring Valley Road and Arbutus Lane) for a septic installation.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Bowers and Mick. Nays: None. Absent: Rosa – motion is hereby approved.

Skeels then introduced the second application, also submitted by AJ's Excavating but on behalf of Jim Maggio asking the board to approve and application (after-the-fact) for a septic system installation, a part of which is in the Arborvitae Road (between Wonderland Road and Platte Road) right-of-way. Staff reported the Arborvitae right of way is forty feet wide and the septic system encroaches three feet into the right of way.

After further discussion, Rosa (via phone) asked to table any decision until he is present as he expressed concerns with approving the encroachment after the fact and it is not known if the grading over the new structure would could water to flow onto the roadbed. He to include this matter on the April 22nd meeting agenda to which Bowers and Mick agreed with the suggestion.

Correspondence/Information/Discussion: None.

Board Round Table:

Commissioner Bowers stated he received a phone call from a concerned resident who had been monitoring the work crew's radio chatter and overheard some rough language. He asked Skeels to remind the crew members to keep any radio traffic "above board" in the future.

In regards to residents upset with the Road Commission's recent brush cutting/tree trimming activities, Skeels suggested seeking out a way to communicate with township residents whos' road frontages are scheduled to be trimmed/cut-back to possibly suggest hiring a third party to trim their brush and/or foliage instead of the Road Commission at their own expense. However, the logistics have yet to be worked out or determined if this option is even feasible.

Public Input: None.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

James Bowers, Vice-Chairman

Joel Nedow, Clerk