

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 **June 10, 2021** at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chairman Robert Rosa
Member Ted Mick
Finance Manager/Clerk Joe Nedow

Vice-Chairman James Bowers
Manager Matt Skeels

Guests attending: Gary Sauer, County Commissioner, Sherry Taylor, Irene Dunham-Thayer, Gene Haseit, Betty Collingwood and Kelly Stockfisch. The public was also invited to attend via telephone conferencing due to COVID concerns.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

May 27, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Mick to pay bills #50563 to #50601 in the amount of \$137,048.29 and approve Payroll #11 for \$52,360.57.

Discussion: None.

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

Cash Summary: Reviewed – Nedow reported the additional voluntary MERS pension payment recently authorized by the Board is included on this payable run.

Work Summary:

-Reviewed written report summarizing the tasks and activities completed or in-progress for the Manager and for each department head. Skeels reported Elmers will be paving the remaining project roads, including River Road (federal aid project) next week and MDOT will be taking bids for the Esch Road FLAP grant project later this month. When Cinder Road will be paved by Rieth-Riley is yet not know and is likely to happen in proximity to when US-31 will be paved. He updated the Board on the US-31 project, informing them that the seal coat phase of this project is expected to start next week. Brining our county gravel and dirt roads is expected to happen next week as well.

Fleet and Facilities Manager Johnson provided an oral report on the activities he has been working on.

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 NMCAA representative Kelly Stockfisch who asked the Board to consider allowing the pre-school classes continue next fall at the Platte River Elementary School building. Stockfisch stated she understands the Road Commission anticipates acquiring this property later this summer with the expectation of demolishing all or parts of the structure so that a new Road Commission facility could eventually be built. Until then, she would like the Board to consider allowing her organization to continue leasing space in the facility for next school year as efforts to find another location matching their space needs to relocate to has not been successful. She also stated that her parent organization would prefer to lease space instead of purchasing land with the intent to construct a facility. When questioned by Commissioner Rosa, Stockfisch informed him Benzie Schools is charging \$2,875.00/month for rent, and she also indicated her organization has voluntarily maintaining the facility including winter snow removal. After further discussion, Commissioner Rosa expressed his viewpoint that he would not object to allowing the pre-school continue to rent the facility next school year provided the monthly rent can cover the routine maintenance costs of maintaining the facility this coming year. However, he informed Stockfisch that the Road Commission would not be responsible for assuming any costly mechanical/structural failure associated with occupying the building. Stockfisch agreed and stated she would continue to work with an area realtor during the coming year to which the pre-school could move into. Commissioner Bowers stated he too agreed with Rosa's viewpoint. She thanked the Board and pledged her cooperation.

Public Input: None.

Items Before the Board:

MCRCSIP ballots for Board of Directors positions:

In a letter dated June 1, 2021 from MCRCSIP Administrator Gayle Cummings to the Northern Membership, Cummings is asking each member to cast two ballots for two open 2021 Board of Directors positions; one vote is requested for the At-Large representative position and one vote requested for the Northern representative vacancy. As two candidates are listed on the At-Large ballot, Nedow suggested supporting incumbent John Rogers of Kalkaska County Road Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Rosa instructing staff to vote for Tony Casali from Isabella County Road Commission, the sole candidate on the MCRCSIP 2021 Board of Directors – Northern representative ballot and for John Rogers of the Kalkaska County Road Commission on the At-Large representative ballot.

Discussion: None.

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

Preliminary discussion: administrative wage adjustments/parameters:

Skeels reported the union membership voted to reject the tentative agreement and negotiations are scheduled to resume later this month. He also stated that when the contract is settled, he would like to present administrative wage adjustments to the Board for consideration and asked what parameters he should use when generating his recommendations. Nedow then added that he is working on a wage matrix of other area road commissions that have roughly the same size and revenue/expenditure levels as Benzie County. Commissioners Bowers and Rosa stated they would prefer to match what the union membership receives but would like the wage analysis also to see if our administrative wages rank with other road commissions.

Correspondence/Information/Discussion: A letter dated June 4, 2021 from the County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund regarding “A call for Board of Trustee Candidates” seeking candidates to fill vacant positions each year as required by the agency bylaws. No interest in participating were expressed by any Board or staff member.

Public Input: Sherry Taylor suggested the Board should consider selling bricks from the Platte School building when the structure is taken down as a good-will gesture/possible fund raiser given the sentimental attachment for the facility expressed by many in the community.

Board Round Table:

Commissioner Bowers stated he would be unable to attend the September 9th regular Board meeting due to an out-of-town commitment. After further discussion, the Board decided to wait until the August 26th meeting to decide to reschedule or cancel the September 9th meeting.

Skeels also mentioned that he received a preliminary oral report from the title company confirming the Platte River Elementary School property has a clean title history with no deed restrictions.

With no more business to discuss, Chairman Rosa then adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Robert Rosa, Chairman

Joel Nedow, Clerk