

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via conference call due to COVID-19.

Present: Mike Atton, Chairman  
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chairman  
Bruce Clark, Commission Member  
Jon Myers, Managing Director  
Art Buck, Superintendent  
Russ Inman, Design Engineer  
Brenda Gordert, Finance Director/Clerk  
Ben Mead, Facilities Manager  
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician

Absent: Ashley Rockefeller, GIS Technician

Public Present: Jeanette Snyder, Midland County Board of Commissioners; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township Supervisor

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**Additions to Agenda:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2021 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Clark, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Public Comment:**

Maria Sandow said the crews are doing a very impressive job clearing the roads.

Commissioner Snyder also commented on the great job the crews are doing with the snow removal and she thanked Art for working with the County.

**Approval of Open Accounts:**

The pre-pay for February 18, 2021 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for February 5, 2021 in the amount of \$387,788.07.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**Correspondence and Items of Information:**

The annual County Road Association Highway Conference and Road Show has been cancelled for this year.

An updated COVID-19 preparedness and response plan was received from MCRCSIP and presented.

An updated Road Commissioners Code of Conduct was received from CRA for review. It has been updated by the CRA Commissioner's Committee to incorporate changes from the Michigan Elliot- Larsen Civil Rights Act.

Discussion was held regarding a temporary engineering intern. Jon stated we have had discussions about filling an open engineering tech position later this spring. Jon was contacted by the CAD Professor at MidMichigan College to discuss opportunities for students to fulfill their required 150 hours of on the job training to complete their college degree. It could be a good opportunity for us to get a preview of some possible candidates. One student was interviewed last week and determined to be a good fit for the temporary position. The student will start in March and work for four weeks. We could continue rotating students through the program with the hope of finding a possible candidate to fill our full-time engineering technician position. We also currently have one high school intern working until May.

**Permit listing was reviewed.**

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Miscellaneous:**

The virtual open house for the Poseyville Road improvement project was held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Presentations were given at 3:00 and 5:00 with the early presentation being the most attended with approximately 30 people. Russ and Jon said the presentations went very well, they presented project details and ended with a question-and-answer session.

**Staff Reports:**

Jon stated he has attended quite a few virtual meetings and workshops the last couple weeks. The County Engineer's Workshop was held virtually for two mornings last week. It had a lot of good information. The call for projects for critical bridge funds are due April 5 and the safety projects are due May 3.

Other workshops were:

- MDOT Regional ITS Workshop
- MDOT Local Agency Program All Region Workshop
- Saginaw Valley Traffic Safety Meeting

He stated the MATS project selection will be next week for projects 2023-2026. There are additional highway improvement program funds, partially due to COVID relief, that will be part of the RTF.

He was contacted this week by the USGS and they are looking to add river gauging stations along a couple bridges for monitoring and predicting flooding for the Tittabawassee River and the tributaries. They will be monitoring Homer Road at the Chippewa River and Saginaw Road at the Big Salt River. They will also be working with the Village of Sanford.

Art stated the crew is doing a great job reacting to the recent snow events. The Sanford Strong group brought over pizzas for lunch as a thank you.

He stated some of the trucks and the loader are pushing back shoulders and removing snow from the overpasses.

He stated the Superintendents Association is moving forward with their annual conference in October.

He attended a virtual meeting with Steve Puuri from CRA about new EGLE regulations to monitor salt and brine usage.

He is continuing to work with vaccine clinics and providing signing as needed.

Signs will be made for the Village of Sanford to close the park when work begins on the Edenville Dam next week.

He stated he has received signed local road estimates for 2021 from 14 of the 16 townships and we have a lot on our plate this year. Our salt supply is holding up well. We have taken the minimum required amount of our backup salt and we could order the remaining 800 tons if necessary.

Russ stated he continues to work with FHWA on the DDIR's for the flood projects. We are still not able to submit bills yet and have not received any reimbursements so far.

Jeff stated the curve signing project is approximately 30% complete. The contractor did not work last week due to weather.

He is working on Barton Malow road crossing permits for the windmills.

He stated the bids for materials and RFP for the 2021 construction season will go out today and be advertised in the Midland Daily News and on the website. Bids will be due March 12.

Ben stated he is moving forward on the stock room updates. He is coordinating meetings with a couple vendors for floor plan designs that Russ assisted with.

The new 1 ton pickup and the pickups for the foreman are not available to order until May for delivery in August or September.

He is working on a quote for the new weighmaster vehicle and looking at delivery in September. The shop has been very busy the last couple weeks keeping the equipment running.

Commissioner Atton wanted to commend the crew for all the hard work. They were able to clean up the last storm very quickly and the roads were cleared.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:30 a.m. until Thursday, March 4, 2021.

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Brenda Gordert, Finance Director

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Mike Atton, Chairman