

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, March 4, 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
Ashley Rockefeller, GIS Technician
Absent: Jeff Brown, Construction Technician

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Additions to Agenda:

Removal of wage increase for semi-truck classification

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Clark, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

County Commissioner Snyder is very appreciative of our teamwork and feels the Road Commission adapts very well and is doing a great job.

Approval of Open Accounts:

The pre-pay for March 4, 2021 was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for March 4, 2021 in the amount of \$374,566.12.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Atton, Hyatt, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

Watkins and Ross Actuarial Firm completed the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) valuation for 2020. A change in insurance providers for retirees over 65 and extra employer contributions in 2020 have increased the funding ratio from 38% to 71.6%. The new insurance provider, United Healthcare, is able to provide comparable coverage for less cost. Michelle Chesney of Arbury Insurance Group has done a fantastic job working very closely with the retirees in the transition.

Season weight restrictions went into effect on February 27, 2021.

Permit listing was reviewed.

Unfinished Business:

An updated County Road Commissioners Code of Conduct was received from CRA and presented at the last board meeting for review. The updated plan incorporated changes from the Michigan Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Commissioner Clark stated it was reviewed at the Commissioner Conference he attended last week, and no changes were made.

Moved by Commissioner Clark and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve the new CRA Commissioner Code of Conduct.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

New Business:

None

Miscellaneous:

A local road project listing for 2020 was presented. Projects have been approved by 14 of the 16 townships with approximately 80 miles totaling over \$3.5 million of local road improvements in drainage, crack seal, sealcoat, overlays, and total reconstruction.

Russ and Jon attended the MATS Urban project selection meeting and the group approved projects through 2026:

- 2020 – Poseyville Road from City Limits to Gordonville
- 2023 – Eastman Road from Monroe to Mier
- 2024 – Saginaw Road from City Limits to Pinesboro
- 2026 – Monroe Road from Sturgeon to Eastman

Project selection is still subject to approval by MATS technical and policy committees.

Category F applications are due May 3 for road projects within the urban area. There is approximately \$375,000 in funds available for FY 2023.

With the change in the Governor's directive regarding COVID and social distancing, for the next board meeting we are able to meet in person with a limit of 25 people. Chairman Atton suggested to continue to meet virtually on March 18th and resume to in person on April 1st. Everyone was in agreement.

Staff Reports:

Jon stated he has seen movement on the FHWA DDIR's. Updates have been made on a bunch of things and Poseyville Road has been approved for reimbursement of the emergency repairs and the permanent repairs. Permanent repairs include making improvements to the drainage by updating the storm drains. Russ pushed very hard with FHWA to include the emergency repairs completed last fall and he was successful. There are still a few projects that have not been signed or approved yet.

FEMA is moving forward. All qualifying locations were lumped into four different projects and two of them were previously approved and obligated. The money will channel through the State Police and the agreement that is required before funds can be released has not been completed yet. We are still working on the other two projects and providing additional justifications for the estimates. Bids were advertised last week along with consultant RFP's. Updates have been made to the consultant selection criteria to meet the federal government guidelines based on qualifications first and price second. Bids and RFP's are due on March 12.

Art stated the M30 bridge in Gladwin County is scheduled to be open on Friday, March 12. He has talked with MDOT and we will assist in removing the current closure signs.

Fishers has been working on the Tobacco side of the dam in Edenville and we assisted with signs and barricades to close the Sanford Park due to the lowering of water levels.

He is finishing up the paperwork on his last federal aid project 11 Mile, Porter, Odd Road reconstruction.

He is driving the roads and monitoring the frost for weight restrictions.

Russ stated the high school and college interns working in engineering are doing a great job.

He is hoping to catch up on a few projects and get plans done for a few future projects.

Ben stated Lista Cabinets and Stanley Vidmar Storage Systems came out to measure the stock room and are working on designs for the update.

He has a quote for the weighmaster vehicle and is waiting on final numbers for the upfitting side before presenting to the Board.

He stated Art and Sara worked together to develop training log cards to keep track of safety training for the crew. Some of the training will be hands on with the bucket truck and forklift and some will be classroom lecture training.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:26 a.m. until Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Brenda Gordert, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chairman