

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

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
Donna Lowe, Finance Director

Absent: Ashley Hiles, GIS Technician
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician

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

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 3, 2022, meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Atton, Clark

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Open Accounts:

The pre-pay for February 17, 2022, was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve payment for the payroll and open accounts for February 17, 2022, in the amount of \$327,016.51.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Clark, Atton, Hyatt

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

The MCTOA meeting is March 3rd at 6:30 pm at the Ingersoll Township Hall.

Jon presented proposed brush spray policy for review and discussion was held.

SUBJECT: BRUSH CONTROL

BRUSH

It is the policy of this Board to control and remove brush in an integrated approach using hand cutting, mechanical devices and herbicides; and to complete the work annually on roadsides on a rotating basis. For the purposes of this policy, brush is defined as woody plant growth such as volunteer trees, low hanging limbs, shrubs and stump growth.

Brush control and removal by the Midland County Road Commission (MCRC), either by mechanical

means or hand cutting, will be limited by the physical and cost constraints of available equipment, personnel, and funds for this purpose. Priority will be by road system, with the primary roads having the highest priority. Within the road system classifications, the hazard exposure created by the brush will be used as the primary factor in establishing site or area priority. Maintaining clear vision at driveway access points will be the responsibility of the individual property owner.

Due to the extensive number of miles of road under MCRC jurisdiction, brush control will also be accomplished by the application of herbicides. The herbicides used will be those approved by the appropriate state and federal agencies for this purpose. Only individuals properly licensed by the State of Michigan and supervised by MCRC personnel will apply herbicides. These individuals must strictly adhere to the MCRC's bid document requirements and specifications. The application of herbicides will be accomplished using appropriate equipment and will be applied in a timely fashion with the intent of inhibiting, or significantly retarding, woody plant growth and chemically pruning to provide horizontal and vertical clear zones. Herbicides will be handled and applied in accordance with the regulations and specifications listed on the product label, the applicable regulations of the State of Michigan, the MCRC's bid documents, and this policy. Roadside areas that are aesthetically desirable due to the presence of wildflowers and non-noxious native plants may be exempted from the application of brush control herbicides at the MCRC's discretion.

CUTTING

Brush cutting shall be performed by the MCRC with appropriate brush cutting equipment and/or a brush cutting crews. Tree branches and brush may be cut out to the right-of-way or to at least 14 feet off the edge of the shoulder. The height of cutting may vary but shall be limited to approximately 20 feet high. Debris from the brush cutter and/or wood chipper may remain in the road right-of-way after cutting activities.

In all directions of an intersection, additional tree branches and brush may be cut to help provide sight distance. Brush shall be cut out to the right-of-way line provided it meets the size requirements listed above. In some scenarios to provide additional sight vision, tree branches and brush may also be cut beyond the right-of-way as permitted by the landowner.

BRUSH SPRAYING

Brush spraying locations shall be as determined by the MCRC. Crop areas, residential frontage (mowed from the residence to the road) and non-invasive ornamental vegetation shall not be sprayed without permission from the landowner. Residential subdivisions and seasonal roads will not be sprayed. Any spot locations in these areas that require treatment will be handled by other means.

Property owners have the option to have their property omitted from the MCRC brush spray program. An application for a "No Spray Permit" must be obtained from the Road Commission and be returned, in person or by certified mail to the Road Commission by the deadline stated on the application. Invasive species will still be sprayed in these areas.

As a condition of approval of a "No Spray Permit" application, the requesting property owner must agree to properly clear the road right-of-way abutting the subject property of undesirable weed growth, brush and low hanging limbs. In exercising this option, the property owner will have to place signs on his/her property as a visual indication to the brush control applicators that he/she is taking responsibility for the control of brush for his/her own road frontage. This area will then be omitted from the brush spray program, but only if the area is clear of weeds, brush and low hanging limbs at the time of inspection by the Contractor and/or Road Commission personnel.

Permit listing was reviewed

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Miscellaneous: None

Staff Reports:

Russ stated he is meeting with the property owner's for the Waldo-Monroe roundabout right-of-way acquisition. He is negotiating and nothing has been solidified yet.

He is working on the permits for the proposed Dollar General at 7 Mile and M20.

He attended the MATS meeting this week and funding has changed again and has been reduced.

He has updated the documentation to reflect the new amounts.

He attended an open house at Larkin Township Hall with Jon, Art and the Drain Commissioner regarding proposed drainage work in Waskevich Sub, Whispering Pines, and Woodland Estates.

The meeting was well attended and went very well.

He attended the Engineer's workshop last week with Jon, Art and Jeff and there was a lot of good information presented. MDOT will be formalizing the federal aid buyout program for the RTF at .90¢ on the dollar and there will be more details to come.

Russ stated he has become a notary and will be able to sign required legal documentation when negotiating right-of-way and easements.

Ben stated the stockroom shelving and storage cabinets have been advertised for bid this week, bids are due February 25th.

He is working on bids for purchasing motor grader, roller, excavator, skid steer, brine tanker and shoulder machine for discussion at the next meeting.

He is not able to purchase a 1-ton truck this year. They are not available to order at this time.

The pickups and 1-ton ordered last year should be arriving in April.

He has been talking with Birch Tank of Mt. Pleasant about building us a brine tanker. They are building one for Gratiot County and Ben is hoping they can do the same for us.

Art stated he attended the County Engineer's Workshop and felt it was very good.

He attended the Larkin Township Open House with Jon and Russ and it went well.

We had an opening meeting with the Union to discuss negotiations for the next contract.

Jeff has put together some bids for large culverts.

He has received a few more signed estimates from the Townships for construction this year.

He stated there is some damage to the east wall of the salt shed, some exposed re-bar that is rusting. He has met with MDOT and hoping to get it repaired.

He will be ordering more of our backup salt in the next couple days.

Jon gave an update from the East Central Council meeting held in January.

CRA update

- State supplemental funding for Transportation Bill.
- State funding for bridge bundling
- Legislation for an "Emergency" funding program
- Federal Aid buy-out update
- MDOT hiring staff for environmental reviews for federal aid projects

He met with the new brush spray contractor Imperial Services to go over requirements.

He met with MDOT last week regarding the Meridian Road transfer. He was told to hold off on the bridge repairs until the transfer could be figured out. Funding for the bridge repairs is good until the end of the fiscal year.

Maria Sandow thanked Jon, Russ, and Art for attending the drainage meeting and she thought it went very well.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:38 a.m. until Thursday, March 3, 2022.

Brenda Gordert, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chairman