

The regular meeting of the Midland County Road Commission was called to order by Chairman Atton on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Midland County Road Commission office.

Present: Mike Atton, Chair
Jim Hyatt, Vice Chair
Bill Cozat, Member
Jon Myers, Managing Director
Russ Inman, Director of Engineering
Art Buck, Superintendent
Travis Havercamp, Design Engineer
Donna Lowe, Finance Director
Absent: Ben Mead, Facilities Manager
Ashley Hiles, GIS Coordinator
Jeff Brown, Construction Technician

Public Present: Terrance Hall, Edenville Township; Maria Sandow, Larkin Township attended virtually.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Additions to Agenda:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

Mr. Hall stated he was not able to locate the minutes for the August 31st board meeting on the website. Russ stated he was aware and was in the process of fixing the website just prior to the start of the meeting. Mr. Hall also expressed his opinion about the Road Commission enforcing policies for signs in the road right of way.

Approval of Open Accounts and Payroll:

The payroll for September 28 and October 12, 2023 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to authorize payroll for September 28 and October 12, 2023.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

The open accounts for September 28, 2023 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve open accounts for September 28, 2023, in the amount of \$1,315,155.78.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Open accounts for October 12, 2023 were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Cozat and seconded by Commissioner Hyatt to approve open accounts for October 12, 2023, in the amount of \$562,501.80.

Roll Call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton
Nays: None

Motion Carried

Correspondence and Items of Information:

East Central Council Meeting October 19, 2023

The next ECC Meeting will be held October 19, 2023 in West Branch. RSVP's are due today. There will be 6 people attending the meeting.

Michigan Chloride Brine Bid Extension

Jon received notification from Michigan Chloride that they have offered to extend the 2023 Dust and Ice Control bid prices for the 2024 season. Jon recommended extending the bid for the next year, as is allowed for by Road Commission policy.

Moved by Commissioner Hyatt and seconded by Commissioner Cozat to extend the Michigan Chloride Dust and Ice Control contract for the 2024 season.

Roll call.

Yeas: Commissioners Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

MDOT Agreement 23-5405

Jon presented the Board with MDOT Agreement 23-5405 for the resurfacing of Saginaw Road from Pinesboro Drive to the Midland City limits.

Commissioner Cozat offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Be it resolved that Contract No. 23-5405, Control Section STUL 56000, Job Number 214571CON by and between the MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Midland, Michigan is hereby accepted.

The following Officials are authorized to sign the said contract:

Jon Myers, Managing Director; Art Buck, Superintendent

Supported by Commissioner Hyatt

ADOPTED: AYES: Hyatt, Cozat, Atton

NAYES: None

Miscellaneous:

None

Staff Reports:

Travis has been wrapping up drainage project designs for this year and looking ahead towards next year.

He did some easement writing with Russ and is also starting to look at the Asset Management program as time permits.

Russ and Jon had a conference call with Spicer about the Bailey Bridge. EGLE permitting has been an issue and EGLE suggested possibly abandoning the project. They have brought up new issues that were not originally mentioned during the initial permitting stage. The commissioners had several questions about plans to potentially move forward with the project despite the permitting issues.

Russ stated that he and Jon are meeting with Dow this afternoon about right of way and hopefully getting that finished up.

Russ has been working with Precision a lot getting things set up for them to begin installing the new accounting software.

Donna presented the MERS Impact Award to the commissioners and discussed the MERS conference which she, Russ and Brenda attended last week.

She is also working with Precision so that she can start training on the system so she will be able to use it come January 1.

Art reported that all county salt and state salt have been delivered and we are ready to begin the snow season.

Gravel spreads are finished, and paving is getting very close to being done. Everything at this time of year is weather-dependent, but there are only 3 paving projects left for the year so they should be completed soon.

He attended the SAM conference in Frankenmuth last week and is attending the Winter Operations Conference in Bellaire next week.

Art also gave an update for Ben, who recently had surgery and has been off for two weeks. He will be back next week. The shop crew is still waiting on the PTO for the new semi, which should be in soon. They began the new truck build in the meantime. Art met with Dan from AIS at the SAM conference and the new loaders are expected to be delivered in December.

Jon stated that the Tittabawassee Road project is scheduled for the top course of paving this week and the project has gone very well despite one issue the contractor had with the trenching operation. They admitted that it was not right and fixed it themselves without issue.

He also reported that the County Wide Sign upgrade project has started. There were supply issues with the posts, but they came in and installation has begun.

Jon and Donna will be meeting with the MERS representative next week to go over the annual actuarial valuation report. The Road Commission is up to 92% funded and MERS is still projecting us to be fully funded within the next year or two.

Jon and Russ will be attending the Tri County Contractors/Engineers meeting.

Jon is also attending the ECC meeting later in the month as well as presenting at the Commissioner's Conference.

Last Friday there was a bid letting for the Pine River Road Bridge over the Pine River but the project came in over estimate so Jon is in discussions with MDOT to secure more FHWA funds to go ahead with the project.

Jon also indicated that Ben's last day will be October 27th. After several interviews with a number of qualified candidates, an offer was made and accepted by Steve Youngs to take the position. Steve will be starting next Monday, and Jon is confident that his experience and personality will be a good fit.

Commissioner Hyatt had some questions about the stop sign safety project regarding where the stop signs are going to be placed and what they will look like. Jon discussed their placement as well as the reflectivity of the signs being replaced.

Commissioner Atton asked for an update on the Steward Road bridge. Jon reported that he had received some feedback from the designer to reduce costs, and he is reviewing the feedback. If he feels like it can be done within budget, it will be re-bid.

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Atton at 9:41 a.m. until Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Donna Lowe, Finance Director

Mike Atton, Chair