

HILLSDALE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

October 2, 2014

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Godfrey on Thursday, October 2, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the road commission office.

Members present: Bob Godfrey & Bill Watkins.

Member absent: Mike Parney.

Staff present: Stanley Clingerman, Engr.-Mgr., & Janet Aemisegger, Clerk.

Visitor present: Al Vitous, Lake Diane.
Andy Barrand, Hillsdale Daily News.

Agenda Approved

Having reviewed the agenda for this date, no additions, deletions or corrections were requested. The chair declared the agenda to stand approved as presented.

Limited Public Comment – Al Vitous, Lake Diane Property Owners’ Association

At 10:10 a.m., the chairman opened the meeting to limited public comment. Al Vitous from the Lake Diane Property Owners’ Association was present to discuss the Association’s plans to reconstruct their boat ramp on the west side of the dead-end E. Diane Drive. In a meeting with them at the site on 9/17/14, Engineer-Manager Stan Clingerman suggested it might be best for both parties, if the road commission abandoned the end of our road beyond their pavilion (144 feet). However, the new procedure for the abandonment of roads at the water’s edge would apply: offer the abandoned road to the township first, then the state DNR next and then the lake association. Mr. Clingerman said it might be better to seek relinquishment of jurisdiction to the lake association with the approval of Amboy Township and the DNR first.

Mr. Vitous explained that the boat ramp is a “sad” boat ramp—full of rocks and ruts and a lot of chunks of riprap in the water. The Association wants to improve the ramp and riprap the banks around it. They hope to make a cul-de-sac for easier lake access and turn-arounds. Mr. Vitous obtained a survey of the boat ramp area and determined that the road commission owns the road end out into the water. Thus, the association really doesn’t have any water access for their pavilion.

Mr. Clingerman noted that the DNR already has a public access on Lake Diane so he doesn’t think they’d want/need another one. The engineer-manager indicated the road commission will need to retain the public road past a couple houses to the northeast of the boat ramp. After some discussion, the general consensus was to explore with the township and DNR, the option of relinquishment of jurisdiction of the road as previously described to the Association. The area could be added to their park. Mr. Vitous thanked the board for their time and left meeting at 10:20 a.m.

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Minutes Presented

Having reviewed the minutes of the September 10, 2014, meeting and of the special meeting minutes of September 18, 2014, there were no additions, deletions or corrections to be noted. The chair declared the minutes to stand approved as presented.

CONFIRMATION OF PAYROLL AS AUTHORIZED FOR PAYMENT BY THE STAFF

#14-138 Bob Godfrey moved, Bill Watkins seconded, to confirm the payment of the payroll in the amount of \$71,346.83 per Payroll Check Register dated 09/25/2014 as authorized by the office manager and the accounts payable clerk. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE APPROVED

#14-139 Bob Godfrey moved, Bill Watkins seconded, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$253,673.88 per Accounts Payable Check Register dated 10/02/2014. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Presented

The treasurer's report was presented by the clerk as follows:

Beginning Balance-Cash & Investments \$2,695,234.09

Receipts:

09/18/2014 R. 42677-R. 42690	\$ 24,573.13
09/25/2014 R. 42691-R. 42702	\$ 29,260.48
10/02/2014 R. 42703-R. 42704	\$ 130.00
09/12/2014 State Maintenance (Aug., 2014)	\$ 43,380.36
09/26/2014 STP force A/C-Seal EFT pymts	\$ 127,667.69
10/01/2014 STP force A/C-Seal EFT pymts	\$ 35,868.15

Total Receipts \$ 260,879.81

Disbursements:

09/18/2014 Accounts Payable	\$ 47,777.24
09/18/2014 MERS EFT payment	\$ 24,004.59
09/18/2014 Sales tax EFT payment	\$ 44.82
09/18/2014 Payroll & Mat SS	\$ 75,936.26
Less: MERS EFT Deductions	\$ (4,272.07)
Less: Hlth Insur Prem Deduc	\$ (317.36)
	\$ 71,346.83
10/02/2014 Accounts Payable	\$ 253,673.88

Total Disbursements: (\$ 396,847.36)

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Ending Cash & Investments Balance	\$2,559,266.54
Less: Bonds in Escrow	(\$ 18,750.00)
Less: Reserve Funds-Territorial Rd. Resurf Proj-PRIP Funds	(\$1,550,000.00)
Ending Available Fund Balance	\$ 990,516.54

As there were no questions or comments regarding the report, the chair declared the report to stand approved as read.

ALL OFFERS FOR SALE OF SCIPIO GRAVEL PIT REJECTED

Written offers from interested buyers for the sale of the Scipio gravel pit on Jeffrey Road (20 acres) were opened on September 25th. Only two offers were received as follows:

Rodney Bigelow	\$10,000.00
David Burke	\$22,100.00

Note: The adjacent Bigelow 10 acre parcel is assessed at \$1,878 per acre.

Mr. Clingerman commented that we're being offered half of the appraised value of the property next to it. Neither bidder came to the bid opening. Mr. Burke did talk to Mr. Clingerman and said he'd like the property for shooting. Mr. Clingerman indicated that he doesn't feel it would be worth it to sell the property at the price offered as if we were to get another bad storm up in that area, the old pit makes a good place to dispose of the dead trees.

#14-140 Bob Godfrey moved, Bill Watkins seconded, that all written offers for the purchase of the Scipio gravel pit on Jeffrey Road (20 acres) be rejected. Carried.

SEALCOAT AGGREGATE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS APPROVED

#14-141 Bob Godfrey moved, Bill Watkins seconded, to approve and sign agreements with the following stone vendors to extend their sealcoat aggregate prices from 2011 through the 2015 season:

Stoneco of Michigan	\$11.75 per ton – FOB Moscow
	\$12.75 per ton – Delivered to any pit.
Gerken Materials	\$12.40 per ton – FOB Glacial & HSG

Carried.

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Projected 2015 Health Insurance Premiums for Current Plans Reviewed

The following information was provided regarding the projected 2015 health insurance premiums using our current plans if all employees stayed on the same plans:

	<u>Deductibles</u>	<u>Co-Pays</u>	<u>Maximum Out of Pocket</u>	<u>Premiums</u>
BCBS PPO Silver	\$2,000/\$4,000	20%	\$4,500/\$9,000 maximum	\$41,157/month
BCN HMO Gold	\$1,300/\$2,600	20%	\$2,300/\$4,600 maximum	\$42,964/month

Published 2015 state health care cap has 2.3% increase = \$40,906/month

If employees stay on current plans, the 2015 premium = \$42,462/month

Two meetings have been held with the Health Insurance Committee and they have been advised of the new state caps that were recently announced as shown above. Mr. Clingerman said it's planned to have two outside insurance agents—Barrett Insurance (Joe Ruden) and CIC (Wes Spencer)—make presentations mid-October to see if they can come up with any other innovative plans for consideration. Jim Koers commended our current insurance agent, Chuck Finkbeiner, for going above and beyond in providing information for the group. Mr. Koers thinks the majority of the Association employees will probably keep their current plans as he hasn't heard of very many who are contemplating switching plans. Mr. Clingerman hopes we'll be able to get the health insurance decision made by November 1st.

Lake Wilson Road Small Urban Hot Mix Asphalt Resurfacing Project – Federal Obligation Authority Received

MDOT has confirmed that the Lake Wilson Road small urban hot mix asphalt resurfacing project received federal obligation authority on 9/24/14 and the project is scheduled for the December 5th bid letting. Mr. Clingerman said there was apparently some re-obligation of federal funds in August as we recently received this notice.

REVISED FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY APPROVED CLARIFYING WHEN “ILLNESS” BECOMES “SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITION” REQUIRING FMLA

The clerk presented for the board's approval a revised Family & Medical Leave (FMLA) Policy wherein suggested language from our HelpNet representative was incorporated to better clarify when an “illness” becomes a “serious health condition” requiring an FMLA leave. The policy was revised as some of the employees have complained over the last couple years when an FMLA leave has been required for what they felt were minor illnesses when they had to be off more than 3 consecutive days and didn't even go to the doctor.

#14-142 Bill Watkins moved, Bob Godfrey seconded, to approve and sign the revised Family & Medical Leave (FMLA) Policy to better clarify when an “illness” becomes a “serious health condition” requiring an FMLA Leave. Carried. Copy on file.

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CRA BALLOT CAST RE: CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

#14-143 Bill Watkins moved, Bob Godfrey seconded, to cast an affirmative ballot to amend the County Road Association constitution and bylaws as follows:

- Updated vision and mission
- Change road “commission” to road “agency”
- Include a canvassing committee
- Narrower scope for PR committee
- Increase service charges 15% now and another 15% in FY 2015/16

Motion carried.

Construction/maintenance update

Sealcoating: Finished fog seals September 10. All done!
 Paver patching: Finished Ransom Township (Burt & Tamarack) this week.
 Pipe arches: Replace Balcom culverts in Reading Township this week.
 Gravel berming: 7 roads in 5 townships to do this fall. (Van Wert done).

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER APPROVED – LOWER SPEED LIMIT ON HEMLOCK ROAD

#14-144 Bob Godfrey moved, Bill Watkins seconded, to approve Michigan State Police traffic control order #S-01-052-14 to lower the speed limit on Hemlock Road from Bankers Road north 3,570 feet (end of pavement) from 45 mph to 40 mph and to authorize the chairman to sign the same. Carried. Copy attached.

Comparison of Road Work Past 20 Years – 2004 vs 2014

As suggested by Bill Watkins, the engineer-manager presented the following comparison of road work over the past 10 years –2004 vs. 2014:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2014</u>
Local gravel patch	35,784 cyd.	13,199 cyd.
Gravel road berming	60 miles	9 miles
Gravel road brining	2.5 million gallons	1.8 million gallons
Paver patching	5,650 tons	6,000 tons
Chip seals	74 miles	50 miles
Fog seals	0	12 miles
Asphalt paving	13 miles (29,600 tons)	1.5 miles (3,100 tons)
Large culverts	3	5
Bridges	1	0

Much less work is being accomplished now due to stagnant revenues, less manpower and high material costs.

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HCRC Employees' Association Ready to Negotiate Labor Contract Changes

A letter dated 9/24/14 from the HCRC Employees' Association was received advising that they are "looking forward to negotiate changes in our current labor agreement".

MDOT Clarification Re: One Time Funding of \$144.5 Million from General Fund-2015 Budget-Four Quarterly Payments

The board reviewed a letter dated 9/30/14 from MDOT clarifying that the one time funding of \$144.5 million from the state general fund in the 2015 budget will be distributed in four quarterly payments starting in November, 2014. Hillsdale' total share will be \$404,000—about \$100,000 per quarter.

Meeting Adjourned – 11:20 a.m.

As there was no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Chairman

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Clerk