

**LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
8:15 a.m.**

Present: Mr. Douglas Hodge, Chairman; Mr. Joseph Suma, Vice Chairman; Mr. Dale Duckert, Member

In Attendance: Mr. Ryan Doyle, Assistant Engineer; Ms. Tami Erickson, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. William Meinz, County Highway Engineer; Mr. Erick Pearson, Managing Director; Ms. Linette Daily, Board Secretary.

Mr. Hodge, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Approve Agenda:

031109-046

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Suma to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye; Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

031109-047

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following,

Approve Minutes For:	Committee of the Whole 02/23/09
	Finance Meeting 02/25/09
	Regular Meeting 02/25/09

Approve Payment of Bills: \$299,679.77

Approve Projects:

Goodland Township:

504-009-903800 Replace X-Tube – Martin Road between M-53 and Blacks Corners \$2,000.00

504-009-903803 Replace X-Tube – Turner Road at the Intersection of Cade \$3,200.00

Roll Call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye, Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Hodge reported that the Finance Committee met at 8:00 a.m. and approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$299,679.77.

Other Meetings Attended:

Mr. Suma reported that he and Mr. Pearson attended the Public Official Meeting for Emergency Management.

Mr. Suma expressed that if and when an emergency should occur, the paperwork is essential.

Mr. Suma stated that he also attended the CRAM Conference which included the New Commissioner Training.

Mr. Suma explained that both the House and the Senate were trying to get bills through regarding the increase in funding for roads.

Managing Director Report:

Mr. Pearson explained to the Board that pursuant to the Emergency Management training program, the Road Commission could be called to assist with damage caused by floods, tornados, ice storms and plane crashes.

Mr. Pearson stated that he also attended the CRAM Conference and agreed with Mr. Suma regarding the heated discussion regarding Road Funding. Mr. Pearson explained that some Road Commissions stated they would be out of money if they paid all of their bills right now. Mr. Pearson stated that the big debate was the discussion regarding the tax percentage increase versus a cents increase. Mr. Pearson stated that Senator Jud Gilbert also introduced the idea to merge Road Commissions in an attempt to save funds.

Mr. Pearson gave an update on the continued reduction in the MFT, which is anticipated to be \$300,000 for 2009.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Mainz asked the Board to approve the 2008 Certification Maps.

031109-048

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the Act 51 Certification Maps dated December 31, 2008 with no additions or deletions.

Roll call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye, Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Mainz went on to speak about the Stimulus Funding that the Road Commission may be awarded. Mr. Mainz and Mr. Pearson spoke about the Federal regulations that are attached to the funds.

Mr. Doyle spoke about the Safety Projects that were let and the results, which came in nearly \$10,000 less than expected.

Public Comment

Mr. Phil Scrimger, Oregon Township Trustee

Mr. Scrimger was present to ask the Board for additional information regarding the projects approved by his Board. Mr. Scrimger stated that he didn't feel he had enough information about the work orders to approve them. Mr. Hodge stated that Mr. Jack Jostock was the contact for Oregon Township, and that he would encourage open communication between both parties. Mr. Scrimger stated that he would like to improve the relationship between the Road Commission and the Township.

Mr. Richard Brandt, Hadley Township Trustee

Mr. Brandt stated that he was the contact between Hadley Township and the Mr. Jostock and he was pleased with the communication they shared regarding the road issues.

Mr. Brandt went on to ask the Board about the 20 Ton weight limit on Greens Corners Road. Mr. Brandt stated that some of the residents would like the posting raised. Mr. Mainz stated that he would review the posting.

Deputy Orrie Smith, Weighmaster

Deputy Smith reported that the trucks are not really moving, except for agriculture and most of those operators are getting the proper permits.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Hodge stated he would like to bring back the motion regarding the Elimination of the Finance Meeting.

Mr. Hodge explained that since the Finance Meeting is not a legal requirement and is held immediately prior to the Regular Meeting, that it could neatly be incorporated into the Regular Meeting and save the Road Commission approximately \$2400.00 in per diem charges.

031109-049

Motion by Mr. Suma, Seconded by Mr. Duckert to take the motion 022509-040 from the table.

Roll call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye, Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Duckert stated when he was elected to the position of Road Commissioner, the Finance Meeting per diem was part of the schedule, the agenda and pay rate and that was part of the reason he ran for the position. Mr. Duckert went on to state that he is already having to pay an additional \$600 out of his pocket for health insurance and this will put another \$800 in reduction to the compensation for the job. Mr. Duckert stated that this was a pretty sizable reduction in pay for him and he didn't feel that he could afford it. Mr. Duckert stated that he understands the whole state system is broke, but doesn't feel that he should have to sacrifice his pay in order to try and fix the budget.

Mr. Suma stated that the County Commission wanted the Road Commission to look at the two separate meetings, when it appeared that the Finance Meeting was created to skirt the issue of being paid for the Regular Meeting through the commission salary. Mr. Suma stated that he agreed that the Finance Meeting could be incorporated into the Regular Meeting and that in the event an additional meeting was needed to deal with more complex finance issues, a special meeting could be scheduled. Mr. Suma explained that even though the process has been in place for 20 years or so, it should be changed now.

Mr. Duckert stated once again that he didn't believe that it was necessary for him to give up his pay. Although he understands the system is running low on money, he doesn't feel he should have to pay for it himself.

031109-050

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Hodge to eliminate the Finance Committee Meeting and incorporate the approval of Road Commission payments during the Regular Meeting.

Roll call: Duckert, nay; Hodge, aye, Suma, aye. Two ayes, one nay. Motion carried.

031109-060

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to appoint Mr. Dale Duckert to the Three-Year Term as the Road Commission Representative for the Lapeer County Collaborative Planning Commission.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

031109-061

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Douglas Hodge, Chairman

Linette Daily, Board Secretary