

**LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, May 15, 2013  
5:00 p.m.**

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Present: Mr. Gary Howell, Chairman; Mr. Dale Duckert, Vice Chairman; Mr. Michael Hemmingsen, Member

In Attendance: Mr. Erick Pearson, Managing Director; Mr. William Meinz, County Highway Engineer; Mr. Ryan Doyle, Assistant Engineer; Ms. Tami Erickson, Chief Financial Officer/Acting Secretary to the Board; Mr. Charles Buckel; Mr. Rick Brandt, Hadley Township Trustee; Ms. Carol Parisean; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hill.

Mr. Gary Howell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Lapeer County Road Commission Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**051513-074**

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the agenda with the addition of Motion to accept Newark Road Engineering Bids. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**051513-075**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to approve the draft Regular Meeting minutes for May 01, 2013. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**051513-076**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to approve disbursements dated May 16, 2013 in the amount of \$351,413.76. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PROJECTS**

**051513-077**

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the following projects:

**Deerfield Township**

504 006 133500 Replace X-Tube on Mott Road between Fish Lake and Schultz 18"x30'  
Estimated Cost: \$1,850.00

504 006 133501 Replace X-Tube on Lou Alice between Skelton and End 36"x48'  
Estimated Cost: \$3,350.00

490 006 134802 Replace Large X-Tube on Chapman between Burnside and Barnes Lake 72"x40'  
Estimated Cost: \$23,058.20 (\$9,223.28 Bridge Fund)

489 006 133503 Graveling Roads Around Barnes Lake, Excluding Limestone Areas. Will Fix Bad Spots in Certain Locations with Limestone Estimated Cost: \$80,000.00

504 006 133504 Replace X-Tube on Chapman between Burnside and Barnes Lake 18"x40'  
Estimated Cost: \$2,100.00

**Goodland Township**

504 009 133800 Ditch from 3823 Summers Road North to Cross Culvert, West Side, 700' Seed & Mulch.  
Estimated Cost: \$3,950.00

504 009 133801 Ditch South 500' Seed & Mulch Estimated Cost \$4,200.00

504 009 133802 Ditch Stine Road East around the Corner at Blacks Corner. Seed & Mulch.  
Estimated Cost: \$3,850.00

504 009 133803 Ditch Reside Road 500' between Black Corner Road and M-53. Seed & Mulch.  
Estimated Cost: \$2,850.00

**North Branch**

504 016 134504 Replace X-Tube on Gravel Creek between Old State & Jefferson 18"x36'  
Estimated Cost: \$1,890.00

Motion carried.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Pearson requested that the Board make a motion to change the remaining 8:00 a.m. Regular Board meetings to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Howell stated that it is very confusing to all involved what time the Board Meetings will be held, as they vary times. Mr. Howell also stated that there is such a time gap between the employee's end of work day and the meetings. He suggested that the meetings should be held at 4:00 or 4:30 rather than 5:00. Discussion ensued.

**051513-078**

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the change of the remaining Regular Board Meetings to 4:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson requested the Board make a motion to reinstate Committee of the Whole Meeting dates on June 10, July 8 and August 5, 2013 at 8:00 a.m., and to add a second Committee of the Whole Meeting for each month, if needed.

**051513-079**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to reinstate Committee of the Whole Meeting Dates on June 10, July 8 and August 5, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that he had spoken with Mr. Joseph Suma, Drain Commissioner regarding the assessment district for the Howe Drain. Mr. Pearson reported that Mr. Suma stated that this was an "Assessment at Large", not an assessment by benefit. Mr. Suma also explained that when it is an Assessment At Large, the County of Lapeer has historically funded a portion of the Assessment, not the Road Commission. Mr. Howell stated that he had spoken with John Biscoe, who agreed that this has been past practice.

Mr. Pearson reported that we are in the middle of our first grading and brining for the season. Mr. Pearson reported that it is taking us longer to get through the Townships as the brining company we use is having some problems with equipment. Mr. Pearson stated that they are only supplying us with enough brine for 6-8 miles per township per day, and with 30 – 40 miles of gravel roads per township, it is going to take longer.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

Mr. Mainz requested a motion to accept the bituminous paving bid tabulations, and award them in the best interest of the County. A review of the Bituminous Paving bids was conducted.

**051513-080**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to accept the bituminous paving bid tabulations, and award them in the best interest of the County. Motion carried.

Mr. Mainz also requested a motion to accept the Design Engineering bid tabulations for Newark Road, as they were discussed at the Committee of the Whole.

**051513-081**

Motions by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to accept the Design Engineering bid tabulations for Newark Road, and award them to the lowest bidder which was Davis Surveying and Engineering. Motion carried.

Mr. Doyle reported that he went out and reviewed the Muir property drain issue once again. Mr. Doyle reported that while we did replace a culvert in the area, it has nothing to do with the water issue on the Muir property. Mr. Doyle stated that he wrote a letter to Ms. Muir and explained this to her, and gave her a few suggestions to possibly alleviate some of the water. Mr. Howell stated that it is not the answer Ms. Muir wanted, but it is the correct answer and now she knows some possible remedies.

Mr. Doyle reported that Clark and Millville will be closed next week in continuation of the safety project work.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Rick Brandt, Hadley Township Trustee

Mr. Brandt stated that the dust issue has really become a problem in his Township, especially where new gravel was placed last year. Mr. Brandt reported that they will not be placing gravel this year, and will possibly do a double gravel haul next year. Mr. Brandt stated that a resident had inquired if it would be possible to chip seal some of the gravel roads. Mr. Pearson stated that chip sealing on top of gravel is not a good remedy. Mr. Pearson stated that Calhoun County tried this a few years ago and now have a real mess on their hands. With no substructure the chip seal gets full of holes, but it is too hard to grade. Mr. Pearson stated that their only remedy is to grind the roads and regravell them, which will be quite expensive.

Mr. Brandt inquired if there was an alternate product available which would be more effective, or should they schedule to have the gravel roads graded and brined more frequently. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ed Hill, 3210 Millville Road, Lapeer, MI

Mr. Hill stated that he has been a resident on Millville Road for over 20 years, and has watched the continual increase in traffic and speeds. Mr. Hill stated that in his opinion cutting the hill and elevating the curve is not going to increase the safety for the public. Mr. Hill stated that he even asked Mayfield Township to pay to move his driveway to a safer location, and they were not willing to do that. Mr. Hill stated that in all of the years he has lived on Millville Road, the accidents are due to driver negligence, such as drunk drivers, and ice on the road caused by salting not done at the proper time. Mr. Hill stated that the traffic is twenty times more now that Peter's Road is paved. Mr. Hill stated that his main concern is that Ryan has committed to fixing his existing drive, cutting the trees, adding a culvert and changing the steepness of his drive. Mr. Doyle stated he would do everything within reason to make sure Mr. Hill is satisfied.

Mr. Hill asked if it would be possible to have a sensor installed to alert those trying to pull out of his drive of oncoming traffic. Mr. Doyle explained that these sensors are common in the west. Mr. Hill stated that he would be willing to sign a waiver of liability if one was installed. Mr. Howell stated that it was more complicated than that. Mrs. Hill stated that she has to roll her window down to listen for traffic before she pulls out of her driveway. Mrs. Hill stated that she is concerned about the grade of the existing drive.

Carol Pariseau, Millville Road, Lapeer, MI

Ms. Pariseau stated that she has lived in this house for 40 years and has watched the road grow from 15 cars a day to what it is now, and did expect some changes. However, Ms. Parisean stated that with the increase of traffic, there should have been an increase in attention to Millville Road, with increase in scraping and salting, law enforcement and safety. Ms. Pariseau also stated that there wasn't enough notice given regarding this project. Ms. Pariseau stated that the speed limit on the curve was too high and a speed study needs to be conducted after the project is complete. Ms. Parisean stated that hidden driveway signs, reduce speed ahead, and other such signs should be considered.

Mr. Doyle stated that the curve is posted an advisory speed of 20 mph. Mr. Doyle also stated that there have been a number of studies conducted, and they have all shown that these advisory type signs, (hidden driveway signs), do not change driving patterns. These types of signs are not even in the traffic control manual anymore because they give a false sense of security.

Mr. Hemmingsen stated that Mr. Doyle will conduct a speed study following the completion of the project. Mr. Doyle stated that a recent speed study was conducted on Millville Road and the average speed (85%) for this morning's peak was 68 mph. Mr. Doyle stated that the average speed on the road overall was 63 mph with the previous average being 59 mph. Mr. Hemmingsen stated that it is not just up to the Road Commission to set the speed limit on a road, it has to be approved by the State Police. Mrs. Hill inquired if rumble strips could be installed to slow people down. Mr. Doyle stated that rumble strips would not be safe at these speeds, and not safe for motorcycles.

Mr. Hill stated that Millville Road should be changed to a primary road. Mr. Hill stated that if it became primary, it would get the attention needed for proper scraping and salting. Mr. Hemmingsen stated that if we had the funding and in a perfect world, we could make all of the roads in the county completely safe. However, we barely have enough funds to maintain the roads as they are. Mr. Hemmingsen stated that Mr. Doyle is continually looking for federal funds and grants to utilize to increase safety within our county.

Ms. Pariseau stated that banking the curve will not increase the safety. Ms. Pariseau stated that the banking will make the curve "fun" to speed around, making it more dangerous.

Mr. Hemmingsen stated that when a federal safety project is designed, they attempt to make the best changes possible within the limits of the project. The first item to look at is removal of fixed objects in the right-of-way. In this case the trees. Mr. Hemmingsen stated that Ryan would review the speeds, and we will make it as safe as possible.

Ms. Pariseau stated that Mayfield Township would not put any additional funds in to this project. Mr. Hemmingsen stated that Mayfield Township would not, but Oregon Township was more than willing. Mrs. Hill stated that no one was killed in the section being completed. Mr. Doyle stated that it is not just fatalities which are considered, but accidents in general. Mrs. Hill inquired how many of the reported accidents were due to ice on the road. Mr. Doyle stated that he did not look at that.

Mr. Pearson reviewed the Lapeer County Road Commission's winter maintenance policy with those in attendance. Mr. Pearson stated that with the limited number of personnel and trucks, we have found it necessary to decrease the amount of winter maintenance performed, county wide. Mr. Hill stated that he knows the Road Commission has fewer employees than in the past. Mr. Pearson stated that in 1968 the Road Commission had over 70 employees. Currently the Road Commission has less than 50 employees. Mr. Howell stated that the Road Commission's revenues are generated by the State Gas Tax, which has been flat for the last 10 years.

Mr. Howell stated that the Road Commission intends to complete the project, and that we will do our very best to make it as safe as possible.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Duckert stated that he had not received any dust complaints, and the brief shower had helped to calm down the dust.

Mr. Howell declared the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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Gary Howell, Chairman

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Linette Daily, Board Secretary