

LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 30, 2013
4:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Gary Howell, Chairman; Mr. Dale Duckert, Vice Chairman; Mr. Michael Hemmingsen, Member
In Attendance: Mr. William Meinz, County Highway Engineer; Ms. Tami Erickson, Acting Board
Secretary/Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Erick Pearson, Managing Director; Mr. Ryan Doyle, Assistant Engineer
Mr. Chuck Buckle, Mr. Rick Brandt

Mr. Gary Howell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Lapeer County Road Commission Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

103013-151

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

103013-152

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for October 16, 2013. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

103013-153

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve disbursements dated October 31, 2013 in the amount of \$520,086.40. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

103013-154

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

Mayfield Township

**504 014 134303 200 Hours Brush Mowing-Variou Local Roads – 40 Hours LCRC/160 Hours Township
Estimated Cost: \$16,725.00 (\$3,344.20 LCRC) (\$13,380.80 Township Cost)**

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pearson reported that at the Blue Water Highway Council Meeting there was discussion regarding the fire at the Alcona County Road Commission in which they had a total loss of equipment. Mr. Pearson stated that he had been told that they were currently trying to locate four 9" tailgate salters. Mr. Pearson stated that we actually have 6 stainless steel tailgate salters, which is what they are looking for. Mr. Pearson stated that as we have switched completely over to the slide in salters, we no longer have any use for these rear tailgate salters, and would like to have them declared surplus so that they can be sold. Mr. Pearson reported that we have tried to sell them recently, and found no one interested in purchasing them. Mr. Pearson stated that these salters were originally purchased in 1991, and the last time some were sold, in 2010, was on an auction site and the average sale price was \$750.00. Mr. Pearson stated that this is the price he would like to ask for the salters.

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

103013-155

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve declaring salters #6320, 6322, 6327 and 6328 as surplus and for sale for the price of \$750.00. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that he had a discussion with Daren McLaughlin from Huron Consulting regarding the Dryden Road Projects. Mr. Pearson stated that Daren had stated that if we give them both of the construction engineering projects, Huron Consultants will deduct the over runs from both sections of the design engineering projects from the contracted design engineering amounts. Mr. Pearson stated that he had discussed this with Mr. Doyle, and as there are so many MDOT projects next year, quite a few inspectors will be needed. Mr. Doyle stated that there are 11 MDOT regulated projects, and while we will attempt to space these projects out throughout the construction season, we will still need to hire a number of inspectors. Mr. Pearson stated that if the Board was willing to work with Huron Consultants it will save the Road Commission in excess of \$10,000.00. Mr. Doyle stated that Huron Consultants designed the projects, so if there are any problems in the field, they would be on site to address them. Mr. Doyle stated that along with the credit to the cost, he feels that it is in the best interest of the Road Commission to continue with Huron Consultants.

Mr. Pearson stated that Huron Consultants are aware of our intentions to cancel their contract, and would like an opportunity to save their reputation. Mr. Doyle stated that he will meet with their inspectors to be sure that they are competent to complete the job.

Mr. Hemmingsen stated that the thought of working with Huron Consultants again truly “gives me heartburn”. However, if it is more efficient to work with Huron Consultants rather than hire a new firm; if their inspection staff is competent, and if we are going to receive full credit for the overages, I guess it would be the way to go. Mr. Pearson stated that he would be meeting with them in advance and that he will make it quite clear that they need to remain on budget, and the project must be completed timely and to specs.

Mr. Howell stated that he is not pleased that none of the change orders or overages were brought before the Board for approval. Mr. Howell continued that he is pleased that they have committed to us verbally that they will give us credit; however, he would need to see it in writing before he will consider voting to continue with the Huron Consultant contract. Mr. Hemmingsen added that he would like it included in writing that we have the right to select who from their staff will be working on this project.

Mr. Pearson stated that he intends to request everything in writing, but did not want to request this until he had spoken with the Board. Mr. Pearson stated that he also has a termination of contract letter prepared and ready to be utilized if the Board so chooses.

Mr. Howell stated that this should be a change order to the original contract. Mr. Howell also stated that the adjustment must include a full credit back for the amount of overpayments. That is the only way he we will agree to the change order. Mr. Howell suggested that the decision should be tabled until such time as the written change order can be reviewed.

103013-156

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to table the Board’s decision to continue or terminate the engineering contract with Huron Consultants until the written change order is received. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that the work on the Imlay Garage is moving along well. Mr. Pearson stated that the roof was completed today. Mr. Pearson reported that the original plans called for the steel on all sides be replaced from the ground up 4 feet only. Mr. Pearson stated that as this building was originally built in 1979 the bottoms of the existing walls have rusted off. Mr. Pearson stated that the steel company has contacted us regarding special pricing and for an additional \$5,000.00 we can have all of the steel, top to bottom replaced on the whole building.

Mr. Pearson stated that he felt this was quite a good deal, and that the entire exterior of the building would then be new.

Mr. Duckert stated that it would cost at least half of this price to have the top portion painted. Mr. Duckert stated that the building will look much better and it should increase the R Value. Mr. Howell wanted to know the life expectancy of the building. Mr. Pearson stated that as the building is a steel frame and will have a whole new exterior, the building should easily last another 30 years.

103013-157

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to increase the scope of the restoration of the Imlay Garage by \$5,000.00 to include new siding for the entire outside of the building. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that he met with a representative from the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks regarding bill HR612 which has been introduced. The representative is looking for support to stop the passage of the bill. Discussion ensued. Mr. Howell stated that the representative should send a draft resolution which we can discuss at Committee of the Whole.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Doyle reported that he has gotten design proposals from 3 companies, OHM, HRC and DLZ for the proposed round-a-bout on Davison and Lake Nepessing Roads. Mr. Doyle reported that OHM and DLZ were very close in their proposals and both have been interviewed. Discussion ensued.

103013-158

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to authorize Mr. Doyle to design and negotiate a contract with OHM for the construction of the round-a-bout at the intersection of Davison and Lake Nepessing Roads to be approved and signed by the Board. Motion Carried.

Mr. Mainz reported that he had to close a bridge in Goodland Township for safety reasons today. Mr. Mainz stated that it is a small structure on Cade Road just south of Kohler with no homes south of the bridge. Mr. Mainz stated that the district foreman, Mr. John Smiljanich, reported the hole, at which time Mr. Mainz discovered the crack in the abutment. Mr. Mainz stated that he closed the road to prevent a complete failure and someone getting injured.

Mr. Mainz reported that the Genesee County Drain Commission Division of Water and Waste have submitted new specs for their road crossings for the new water main. Mr. Mainz reported that the specs that they are now proposing are non-DOT specs. Mr. Mainz stated that what they are proposing is a new method of utilizing grindings as back fill which is an unapproved and untested method. Mr. Mainz stated that he is not accepting this proposal as this method is not what is best for our roads.

Mr. Doyle presented to the Board a list of the 2014 Projects which include 11 construction projects and 2 design projects.

Mr. Howell reported that he received the latest Notice of Claim and inquired what had happened. Mr. Pearson explained that this claim involved a person who hit a tree which was across the road. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rick Brandt, Hadley Township Supervisor

Mr. Brandt stated that the Township had received a letter from Chris Kuehl regarding a water issue at this cottage located at 5928 Angler Drive. Mr. Brandt stated that he went out and looked at the area and does not feel that the road is causing Mr. Kuehl's water in his crawl space. Mr. Pearson stated that he had looked at the area also and agrees the water issue is not caused by road water. Mr. Brandt stated that it appears the problem may be caused by the cottage's downspouts and if they are directed further away from the home it may solve the problem. Mr. Pearson stated that he would respond to Mr. Kuehl. Mr. Brandt stated that he would also follow up.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Hemmingsen reported that he and Mr. Pearson had worked on his 2014 Performance Evaluation, and feels that they are ready for approval. Mr. Pearson stated that if the revisions have been made that were discussed, he was comfortable with that.

103013-159

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the 2014 Manager Performance Evaluation and move forward with it. Motion Carried.

Mr. Howell stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Pearson earlier regarding the Road Commission's general counsel. Mr. Howell stated that this is a very specialized field and takes a long time to become familiar with specific Road Commission legal issues. Mr. Pearson stated that he does not feel that our current general counsel is proving to be very effective. Mr. Pearson stated that we would look into some other alternatives.

Mr. Howell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Gary Howell, Chairman

Linette Daily, Board Secretary