

**LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2014**  
**4:30 p.m.**

Present: Mr. Gary Howell, Chairman; Mr. Dale Duckert, Vice Chairman; Mr. Michael Hemmingsen, Member  
In Attendance: Ms. Tami Erickson, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Linette Daily, Board Secretary; Mr. Erick  
Pearson, Managing Director; Mr. Ryan Doyle, County Highway Engineer  
Mr. Zeb Schons, Maintenance Working Foreman

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**

Mr. Howell stated that he would like to add New Business: Keregnondi Water Authority and Engineering Department Staffing and Old Business: ORV. Mr. Pearson asked to add an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Managing Director review.

**010814-001**

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

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**010814-002**

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 23, 2013. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**010814-003**

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve disbursements dated January 9, 2014 in the amount of \$486,220.83. Motion carried.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Pearson explained that the crews have been working extremely long hours with this latest snow storm. Mr. Pearson stated that on the 6<sup>th</sup> the night shift was called in early and the day shift started at 3:00 a.m., on the 7<sup>th</sup> they worked from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and today North Branch and Imlay City began at 4:00 a.m. and Lapeer started at 5:00 a.m. Mr. Pearson explained that in very low temperatures salt does not work, so they were using the plows, wings and blades to push back the snow and break open the roadways. Mr. Pearson went on to state that the biggest issue that slowed the progress on the secondary roads was the vehicles that were stuck in the middle of the roadways. Mr. Pearson reported that Ms. Denise Secson took hundreds of calls from motorists and residents regarding their roadways and their hit mailboxes. Mr. Pearson stated that Ms. Secson has a very trying position and she and the rest of the office staff deserve to be commended during these difficult times.

Mr. Pearson went on to state that the maintenance crews were doing a great job and just know what to do and go and do it. Mr. Pearson stated that the crews went up and above what we could ever expect of them and they are to be thanked for giving up time with their family and friends. They had little sleep and were working in dangerous temperatures in order to get the motoring public moving. Mr. Pearson explained that equipment was being tested due to the temperature and the ice formation on hoses and lines, along with a rear-end failure of a grader.

Mr. Pearson explained that we have used 5,000 ton of salt so far this storm and spent \$670,000 on winter maintenance thus far, which is over half of the budgeted amount.

Mr. Pearson stated that the positives that have come out of the storm have been the tremendous job the crews have done in clearing away the seventeen plus inches of snow and Alta Equipment offering the use of a 976 grader at no charge. The one problem that we encountered was the slow removal of the snow from the subdivisions by the

contractors. Mr. Pearson stated that one contractor was unable to remove snow in any of his subdivisions and one contractor spent two days in the largest mileage territory, Oregon Township, which stalled the remaining townships from getting service. Mr. Pearson stated that he was thankful for the assistance Jostock Trucking gave the Road Commission when we asked them to cover additional townships that they did not even bid.

Mr. Schons stated that he gives kudos to all of the crews since Thanksgiving, because whenever he calls them they always come in. He also thanked management for the lunch that was supplied. Mr. Schons went on to state that MDOT and Genesee County had only good things to say about Lapeer County when they needed our assistance to re-route traffic when I-69 was shut down due to an overturned burning tanker.

Mr. Pearson then explained to the Board that he would like to bid an Engineering position. Mr. Hemmingsen asked that a preliminary job description be drafted for review of this salary position.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**010814-004**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to approve the Haul Route Agreement with Measel Supply to transport empty over-length gravel trains to its location on Sandhill Road in Almont Township from General Squire Road west of the Village of Almont and Sandhill Road south to the facility. Motion carried

**010814-005**

Motion by Mr. Hemmingsen, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the Haul Route Agreement with Measel Supply to transport over-length gravel trains to access their pit on Kidder Road in Almont Township from eastbound Tubspring Road from M-53 and northbound Kidder Road to the facility. Motion carried.

Mr. Doyle reported to the Board that the Keregnondi Water Authority continues to try and dictate how the water line project will be completed within Lapeer County road right-of-way. Mr. Doyle explained that we are not asking for anything out of the ordinary, and has only received 60% of the plans for a little over two mile stretch. Mr. Doyle stated that he estimates the larger projects will have a fall start date now due to delays.

Mr. Doyle explained that the Dryden Road project will be a March letting with a May construction start, and a June completion. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like this project to be completed before school is out because of the large amount of projects occurring during the summer.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Duckert stated that he is pleased with the work the crews have done, as he has had the opportunity to travel to Oakland County and could tell the difference when he left Lapeer County. Mr. Duckert also stated that when he went to coffee Sunday morning, right after the snow, he would have never known that it had snowed because it was cleared so well. Mr. Duckert stated that he was concerned about the rain predicted for the weekend and what it will do with the cold ground temperature.

Mr. Pearson stated that he had to admit that the wings on the trucks are the best pieces of equipment we have, as they move so much more snow with one pass, and we can get things opened much quicker.

Mr. Howell explained that he shared the ORV map with the Almont Township Supervisor and his suggestion was to also consider closing the rest of Dryden Road and Glover Road, the remaining primary roads in their township. Mr. Howell stated that they will have their police department enforce it. Mr. Howell stated that he will forward

the preliminary map to the County Commission sub-committee for their review of our suggested closed roads to ORV use. Mr. Duckert stated that he does not have an issue with any ORV use.

It was explained that the Townships will have to wait one year after the County Board authorizes ORV use in Lapeer County, if they would like additional roads closed to ORV use. It was stated that we would follow up in a couple years after it is approved to see if changes need to be made.

**010814-006**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to enter into executive session at 5:33 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Managing Director evaluation per Mr. Pearson's request. Roll call: Howell, aye; Duckert, aye; Hemmingsen, aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**010814-007**

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsen to leave executive session at 5:52 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Howell declared the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

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Gary Howell, Chairman

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Linette Daily, Board Secretary