

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
GOGEbic COUNTY ~ BESSEMER MICHIGAN

TOWNSHIP MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

The meeting between the Board of County Road Commissioners and the Townships was held in the offices in the Courthouse Annex, City of Bessemer, on the above date.

**Present:** Don Bennetts, Chairman  
Dan Siirila, Commissioner  
Patricia Hagstrom, Secretary  
Rob Drier, Commissioner  
Darren Pionk, Engineer/Manager

**Excused:** Marti Wegner, Vice-Chair  
Roy D'Antonio, Commissioner

**Also Present:** John Cox, Wakefield Township; Jeff Randall, Bessemer Township; Larry Grimsby, Erwin Township; Alan Baron, Ironwood Township and 2 public attendees.

**I. Call to Order** ~ Chairman Bennetts called the meeting to order at 4:15pm.

**II. Approval of Agenda** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier to approve the agenda.

**III. Discussion** ~ Darren gave an update on Lake Road. There were 5 bidders for the project and all of the bids came in under the engineers estimate. The estimated was for approximately 2.5 million dollars and the lowest bid came in just under 2.1 million dollars. Work is being done with MDOT to complete the contract award with the lowest bidder. The lowest bidder was MJO Contracting out of Houghton. A preconstruction meeting will be held on Wednesday. The time schedule to get these repairs done is very tight. The biggest issue is getting the box culverts delivered on time. The intent is to have all of the culverts replaced this fall at the 10 sites and weather permitting possibly having some of the sites paved. Full completion of the repairs is June of 2017. Mr. Baron asked about the opening to have gain to Wisconsin. Darren stated that the plan is to begin working on the foundation at that location. The timing to get the conspan structure in is approximately the first part of November. During now and then there will be 2 crews working along the repair sites. They are working on a schedule to reduce the local traffic on Powers Road. The intent is to work on the sites to half width for local traffic through the repair locations. MJO is aware of the tight schedule and they understand that if they don't get the repairs finished that they will be assessed liquidated damage fees. They anticipate bringing gravel to Powers Road later in this week or next week and will start stock piling materials at the repair sites. The next phase for next year is being worked on as there are 8-10 culverts that need to be replaced. The S-curves on Lake Road just past the spring will be paved next year. ROW clearance, permits and the design are being worked on for this location. Mr. Baron stated that this location has been brought up as a safety concern. Darren stated that no work will be done at this location this year. This location will be monitored and maintained as necessary in the spring. Darren stated that the plan to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Thousand Island Lake Road in Watersmeet Township this year has been postponed until next year. This is due to the late obligation of funding from FHWA and because of the

## SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 TOWNSHIP MEETING CONTINUED

severe weather event. There will be about 7 miles of paving and a replacement of a box culvert to be done next year. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase is ready to go out for bids. Discussion is taking place regarding having this work done as 2 bids or 1. The replacement of the box culvert is taking more time due to obtaining ROW from the USDA Forest Service and they are not willing to give up their property.

The SIB loan has been approved for the emergency work on Lake Road. The reason for the loan is that the federal government doesn't have the money now. Once the funding comes through it will be applied to the loan. The remainder is the responsibility of the GCRC with annual payments to be made for next 10 years.

The 4 new plow trucks should be delivered in the next few weeks. These trucks will be used in Watersmeet and Marenisco on the state highway system. MDOT has approved an additional night patrolman. This patrol will be placed in Marenisco and with the early in/early out for winter maintenance there will be improvement to the winter operations. Applications are being accepted for seasonal plow drivers. Sand is being hauled and salt will be delivered for winter maintenance.

Jeff Randall, Bessemer Township, asked about the township contracted projects. Darren stated that GCRC has not received any funding for the emergency repairs on Lake Road. Discussion is in place with Senator Casperson and his aide regarding a special appropriation of monies. If some of the repair costs can be paid for by this appropriation the township projects will be discussed to be re-scheduled for 2017. Mr. Randall offered an alternative for gravel to be placed on Lake Shore Drive. He stated that the township would pay 100% towards the project with the road commission either paying back the 40% match or giving the township credit for a future project. He feels this is one project that needs to be completed this year. Commissioner Siirila suggested this item be added to the regular meeting agenda.

John Cox, Wakefield Township, asked about the skid steer that is brushing on the state highway. Darren stated that the equipment is being rented for this work. Mr. Cox asked about the paving on M-28 and if it was scheduled for this year. Darren stated that it wasn't scheduled but MDOT found some additional funding.

Darren stated that the 4 bridge projects are on schedule. There are 2 bridges scheduled for repairs in 2017.

Darren stated that the bridges along the non-motorized trail are being worked on. The trail has been paved. Siirila asked that he thought that this project was to be completed on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Darren stated that there was some additional work that needed to be done on the bridges and an extension was given until the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. He added that the work will go past this extension for about 2 weeks due to the panels being installed on the bridges. The contractor will be assessed liquidated damages. Siirila stated he understands the extension for the bridges but the intersections should have been completed. He asked who gave the extension. Darren stated that the contractor submitted a request to him that he reviewed and forwarded to MDOT for their review concurrence. Siirila disagrees with the extension because the intersections should have been done. He understands that one of the owners of the company was out hunting when he should have been working on the project. Darren stated that MDOT considers factors into extensions regarding controlling items of work and if the extension is justifiable. The contractor initially wanted the extension for a couple of weeks and was denied that request.

## SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 TOWNSHIP MEETING CONTINUED

Cox stated that in speaking with colleagues down state they have said it is hard to find employees and is the GCRC having this problem. Darren stated that the contractor working on the bridges in Gogebic County are having issues with employees not showing up for work or quitting.

Larry Grimsby, Erwin Township, asked when the culverts will be cleaned out and ditching done in the township. Scott Maki stated that this work will start tomorrow.

Cox stated that the MTA understands the position the GCRC is in due to the flooding and feels that if the disaster would have happened in any of the other townships, the other township and residents would understand.

Baron asked about the shoulders and driveways on Lookout Lane. Scott Maki stated that this work is on his schedule but due to the high volume of rain, he doesn't want to bring a grader or other equipment to that area and wreck the repairs that have been done.

- IV. Adjournment** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drier to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 pm.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

---

Secretary

---

Chairman