

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
GOGEBIC COUNTY ~ BESSEMER MICHIGAN

TOWNSHIP MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 25, 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
Rob Drier, Commissioner
Roy D'Antonio, Commissioner
Patricia Hagstrom, Secretary
Marti Wegner, Vice-Chair
Dan Siirila, Commissioner
Darren Pionk, Engineer/Manager

Also Present: John Cox, Wakefield Township; and 3 public attendees.

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Wegner to approve the agenda.

IV. Discussion ~ Darren started the discussion by stating all of the local residents have access to their homes via Lake Road. There are some locations to the west that GCRC workers will start on temporary repairs tomorrow until logistics can be figured out funding wise. He met with the Federal Highway Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation to review the large opening past Maki Creek and it was agreed to leave that location open like it is. They are looking into a possible avenue to work around some of the guidelines to get funding quicker so some of the repairs that are needed now can begin. These repairs could be considered temporary/permanent. Further meetings are scheduled to discuss this. Some of the crossings that are failing will be set-up for permanent repairs in 2017. The "Big 8" crossings are the concern this year. The focus right now is to get the funding set-up and have some of the money fast tracked to start some of the projects going. Another concern is ordering and receiving the materials so late to begin work, which includes the culverts, steel, etc. If the fast track funding doesn't come through, the condition of Lake Road as it is now will stay that way until next year. This is being stressed to MDOT, FHWA and the Governor's Office and that we are still in a state of emergency. The National Guard is still working on Powers Road and Aspen Lane. About 25 guards people are on location. Commissioner Siirila asked if the National Guard has a bridge that could be placed on the large opening past Maki Creek. Darren stated that the bridges that they use are only single lane with no guardrail and would not be safe for public traffic. Signage for Lake Road will be improved to limit public traffic to Lake Road. An Acrow bridge which is single lane would cost \$70,000 for a 6 (six) month rental and could be delivered in 4 (four) days. Siirila mentioned that piggy backing with Wisconsin for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency should be looked into. Darren has discussed this with MDOT. FEMA will not pay for repairs that have other sources of funding available, which includes the primary road system. They would possibly fund repairs to Powers Road, Brace Road and Aspen Lane as

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these roads are secondary roads. Staff from the MDOT Crystal Falls office will be helping with on-site inspections and with DEQ permitting.

John Cox asked if the Michigan Township Association could be of any assistance. Darren stated that pressure on Representative Dianda and Senator Casperson may help. Darren spoke with Senator Casperson regarding a pilot program between GCRC and MDOT to fast track the process as time is essential. The partnership between all involved is important for the repairs and to get it done for the people. Darren stated that meetings are held daily to update the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan needs numbers and that is what is being worked on now. The estimate is 3.2 million just on the structures on Lake Road. The road is being beat up and there is approximately 1 million in repairs needed. Darren estimates that at the end it would amount to approximately 2 million. Additional funding can be requested up to 2 (two) years after the event.

Mrs. Maki, a resident of Lake Road asked if there is any funding available due to Lake Road being on the Circle Tour. Darren stated that Lake Road is a Federal Aid eligible road and GCRC would be required to match 20% of the costs.

Mr. Cox asked about the township projects. GCRC postponed all township projects at the Special Meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. Routine maintenance will be done as needed. Mr. Cox stated that Lac Vieux Desert Band held a press release stating that local government will benefit from property tax revenue for the facilities and percentage of revenues from electronic gaming winnings. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also provides road funding within a 5 (five) mile radius. The casino location is in the Blackjack/Indianhead areas.

- V. Adjournment** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by D'Antonio to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Secretary

Chairman