

**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
GOGEBIC COUNTY ~ BESSEMER MICHIGAN**

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held in the Circuit Courtroom, 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: Numerous Public Attendees

I. Call to Order ~ Vice-Chairman Bennetts called the meeting to order at 5pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Nomination of Board Seats ~ Vice-Chairman Bennetts opened the floor for nominations for chairman. A motion was made by Wegner, 2nd by Drier, that Don Bennetts be place in nomination for chairman with a unanimous vote requested. Vice-Chairman Bennetts proceeded to ask 2 additional times for further nominations. Nominations were declared closed and the following roll call was cast for Don Bennetts to preside as chairman: Ayes ~ Wegner, Siirila, Drier, D'Antonio & Bennetts. Don Bennetts was thereupon elected to serve as chairman for the remainder of 2016. Chairman Bennetts opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair. A motion was made by Drier, 2nd by Bennetts, that Marti Wegner be placed in nomination for vice-chair with a unanimous vote requested. Chairman Bennetts proceeded to ask 2 additional times for further nominations. Nominations were declared closed and the following roll call was cast for Marti Wegner to preside as vice-chair: Ayes ~ Drier, D'Antonio, Siirila, Wegner & Bennetts. Marti Wegner was thereupon elected to serve as vice-chair for the remainder of 2016.

IV. Approval of Agenda ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Wegner, with all in favor to approve the agenda.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Regular Meeting of Monday, March 14, 2016 ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Drier; with Wegner & Bennetts in favor; D'Antonio abstaining; to approve the minutes.
- Regular Meeting of Monday, March 28, 2016 ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Wegner; with Drier & Bennetts in favor; D'Antonio abstaining; to approve the minutes.
- Special Meeting of Thursday, March 31, 2016 ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Drier; with Wegner & Bennetts in favor; D'Antonio abstaining; to approve the minutes.
- Joint Meeting of Wednesday, April 6, 2016 ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Drier; with Wegner & Bennetts in favor; D'Antonio abstaining; to approve the minutes.

VI. Public Comment ~

- Larry Grimsby spoke about the snowplowing on April 2, 2016 in Erwin Township. He said he spoke with Darren Pionk about why the roads were not plowed and was told that miscommunication was the problem. Mr. Grimsby then asked about the plowing on April 7, 2016. He stated that some roads were plowed while others were not. He finds it baffling and would like corrections made. Mr. Pionk explained that the drivers have specific routes and that the seasonal workers were let go as the forecast looked good

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for the month of April. GCRC workers reported for work at 6am on April 7, 2016. Scott Cebolski, Shop Foreman, reported that there was no snow at 3 am when the night patrolman punched out. It started to snow shortly after and didn't quit. Roger Hill commented that nobody was called out early and that management failed.

- Mike Rogers from Watersmeet said that there was 10" of snow and that at 8:30 am nothing had been plowed. He commented that there are not enough workers and/or equipment. He said that summer routine maintenance on roads is lacking. There are roads that are in need of gravel. He has been getting hate emails. He would like trucks in the Watersmeet area to help with summer routine maintenance. He added that Gogebic County receives PILT monies that are to be distributed to the improvement of roads.
- Dave Danula said the problem with the snowplowing is that they have to wait for a call before they go out.
- Mr. Grimsby stated that he has no problem with the employees and that the full-time and part-time workers did a splendid job this winter.
- John Racovitis asked about the tour of the building that was taken. Chairman Bennetts said it is a beautiful building but is not going to work for the road commission.
- Don Grbavcich stated that there should be enough material in the road commission pits to crush for gravel.
- Jim Manchester questioned why the night patrolman was going home at 3 am. Scott Cebolski stated that the shift was changed and the weather was a factor. Mr. Manchester disagrees with the shift change as the night patrolman is not on duty to call workers out when needed. A comment was made that the workers are not coming out when they are called. Dan Siirila asked when this shift was changed. Mr. Cebolski stated that Scott Maki, Foreman, and himself discussed this and thought it would work out. Roger Hill stated that it was snowing during the evening of Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Mr. Siirila stated he was traveling on the highway on Thursday morning and it did not seem to be treated. Mr. Hill stated that there are only 2 trucks on the highway and that they both needed blades.

Mike Rogers questioned the purchase of single axle trucks for plowing of the highway and then parking them in the summer. He would like trucks with under blades in Watersmeet to help with gravel work.

VII. Payment of Bills ~ A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2nd by Siirila, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Siirila, D'Antonio, Wegner, Drier & Bennetts; that claims checks #64278 ~ #64314 in the amount of \$20,722.09, and payroll from 03/26/2016 to 04/08/2016 in the amount of \$61,977.54 be approved for payment, and the supporting vouchers be signed by the board.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Commissioners Seminar ~ April 17-19, 2016 in Sault Ste. Marie. There will be no attendees.
- b. Review Plow Truck Proposals ~ The bid tabulations were distributed and discussed. The bids came in over budget. Scott Cebolski explained that to bring down the price, the stainless steel dump box and cable control module for the hydraulics were deducted. The plan was to use dump boxes that the road commission already owns. They would be refurbished. Commissioner Siirila asked if there was discussion with the mechanics and if major repairs were needed, where would the trucks be sent to. Superior and Wausau are the nearest repair shops. Commissioner D'Antonio asked about the use of single axle trucks on the highway and what a tandem truck would cost. Mr. Pionk stated a new tandem would cost \$240,000. A motion was made by Siirila to table this item for more information. Further discussion took place. A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by D'Antonio, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ D'Antonio, Siirila, Wegner,

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Drier & Bennetts to award the bid to Wisconsin Kenworth and Casper's for 4 new single axle trucks with attachments, stainless steel multi-purpose spreader body and cable control module for the hydraulics at the cost of \$189,196 per truck.

IX. New Business

- a. Letters of Appreciation for Winter Seasonal and Commissioner Lyons ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by D'Antonio, with all in favor to sign these letters.
- b. 2016 Finance & Human Resource Business Seminar ~ May 17-18 in Marquette. Patti Hagstrom will attend this seminar.
- c. Payment of Bills ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by D'Antonio, with all in favor to hold the finance meeting 15 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled meetings for the payment of bills.
- d. Township Meetings ~ It was felt that all members of the board should attend these meetings. A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Drier, with all in favor to hold the township meetings as special meetings on the 4th Monday of every odd month.
- e. Summer Work Hour Schedule ~ A motion was made by Wegner, 2nd by D'Antonio, with all in favor to start the summer hours on Monday, May 2, 2016.
- f. Budget Review & Project Discussion ~ The budget review was distributed and discussed. Adjustments were made for winter plowing, equipment expense, construction costs and other items that needed to be modified. Mr. Pionk stated that since the plans for a new facility will not be moving forward, there are other places the money can be used for and he discussed a list of additional projects. This is a preliminary review. A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2nd by Siirila, with all in favor to table this item. Mr. Pionk will provide additional information for a future meeting.
- g. Paver Discussion ~ Mr. Pionk explained that the paver will no longer be used and that it should be sold. Discussion took place. A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Drier, with all in favor to sell the paver and roller on the Wisconsin Surplus Auction.
- h. Snowplowing Discussion ~ Commissioner D'Antonio wanted to discuss the plowing in Watersmeet on April 7, 2016 and the weekend. He stated he drove around the Watersmeet area and nothing was plowed. He stated only 2 employees showed up for work on Saturday. He asked Jim Mattson, East End Foreman, how this happened. Mr. Mattson stated that the employees were not called out early on Thursday. Mr. D'Antonio stated that the roads were also not plowed on Friday. Mr. Mattson stated when he contacted the working foreman from Watersmeet; he was told that there was only 1" of snow on the ground. At this point the workers were plowing the gravel roads that did not get taken care of on Thursday. Mr. Mattson told the board that all workers were notified that they were to report to work at 3 am on Saturday and only 2 showed up out of the 3. Jim Manchester stated that when he worked out of the Watersmeet garage there were 7 full-time employees now there are only 4 and 1 of them is on night patrol. Mr. Mattson asked how they feel when their phones ring to come into work and they do not answer. Mr. Manchester stated that the foremen are lucky that they come into work without a contract. Mr. D'Antonio stated that the night patrol worker should have not left at 3 am and that this procedure is broken. Discussion took place on having a committee established to deal with this issue. Mr. Siirila questioned Mr. Mattson about a weekend when he was on duty that he did not call out the seasonal workers to plow. He felt that they should have been called as they are assigned a specific route. Mr. Turkol stated that it is the responsibility of the road commission to keep the roads clear.

Mr. Turkol stated that the Bessemer Planning Commission has not heard a response from the road commission in 75 days and feels that this was ample time. He stated that any plans presented to the Bessemer Planning Commission regarding the new facility

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construction and land development are mute and dead. Any future requests will have to be resubmitted and completed within the year. Additional fees will apply.

Ed Balduc stated that the committee should meet when all the employee are attending the safety meetings. A motion was made by Wegner, 2nd by Drier, with all in favor to have Roy D'Antonio and Dan Siirila sit on this committee.

Larry Grimsby stated that this behavior from the management and union is uncalled for.

Discussion took place on requiring the employees to come in early or stay late. Both Mr. Mattson and Mr. Cebolski that there is no way of making them come in early or stay late. Don Grbavcich stated that when he is called, he asks if it is for his specific route and if it is for the highway he does not come in because the highway is dangerous and unsafe and he cannot handle it. Roger Hill said yes the highway route is very stressful. Mr. Siirila stated that if they are called in regardless of what route it is, they took the job knowing that this is part of their job. Mr. Siirila directly spoke to Mr. Hill stating that he began working for the road commission approximately 2 years ago and knew that there was overtime and weekend shifts. Mr. Hill said yes and I expected to get a raise.

- i. Purchasing of Safety Supplies ~ A quote was received from Give 'Em a Brake Safety for the purchase of work zone signs, bases, barrels, etc. These items will be used in all 3 garages along with work done on the highway. Ms. Wegner asked if these items should have been sent out for bids. Mr. Cebolski stated that he compared prices on-line and stated this was a reputable company who is compliant with Michigan codes on signs. A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Wegner, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Wegner, Siirila, Drier, D'Antonio & Bennetts to purchase these items at the cost of \$4,710.

Correspondence was received from Greg & Jessie Ryskey, residents of County Road 523 (Copps Mine) regarding the condition of the road. A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by D'Antonio, with all in favor to accept, place on file and do something about the condition of this road.

X. **Financial Reports** ~ These reports were discussed. No action was taken.

XI. **Public Comment** ~

- Steve Tiziani asked if the additional monies from the Lake Road Project could be used somewhere else. Mr. Pionk stated that Federal monies can only be used on specific eligible roads. Mr. Tiziani asked if the work that was done on Vanderhagen Road last year is going to be continued. Mr. Pionk is in contact with Ironwood Township regarding this.
- John Stempihar stated that the visit to John Rocovitis' building should have been documented. He stated he has looked over minutes from the previous years and that they are vague. Commissioner D'Antonio stated that correspondence should be sent to Mr. Rocovitis on the thoughts of the visit.
- Bob Murphy stated that the employees are working without a contract and negotiations have been attempted. The Union is requesting a 60 day hold on the fact finding and would like to sit back down to negotiate. Commissioner D'Antonio would like to revisit this issue. A special meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 5 pm.
- Dave Danula doesn't understand the amount of money spent on legal fees during the negotiation process.
- Don Grbavcich stated that the employees who did work during the storm busted their butts and that when they got back to the garage that is all they were told about was all of the phone calls received about the roads that were not plowed.

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APRIL 11, 2015 REGULAR MEETING CONTINUED

XII. **Adjournment** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Drier, with all in favor to adjourn at 7:40 pm.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

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Secretary

Chairman