

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
GOGEBIC COUNTY ~ BESSEMER MICHIGAN

SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

The special meeting of the Board of County Road Commission was held in the offices in the Courthouse Annex, City of Bessemer, on the above date.

Present: Don Bennetts, Chairman
Drier, Commissioner
Dan Siirila, Commissioner
Patricia Hagstrom, Secretary
Marti Wegner, Vice-Chair
Rob Roy D'Antonio, Commissioner
Darren Pionk, Engineer/Manager

ALSO PRESENT: 5 Public Attendees

- I. **Call to Order** ~ Chairman Bennetts called the meeting to order at 4 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Approval of Agenda** ~ A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2nd by Wegner to approve the agenda.
- IV. **Public Comment** ~ NONE
- V. **New Business**
 - a. Update on Emergency Due to Severe Weather Event ~ Starting on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 crews worked to the west on Lake Road to open culverts temporarily at numerous locations. The last 2 (two) culverts near Lower Powers will be open today. There is a property west of Hallberg's that has a camper on it and access to that property will be opened up today. Repairs to the large culvert near the Hallberg residence will begin tomorrow, will take approximately 3 (three) days to complete and will be a permanent fix. Coleman Engineering is working on completing TOPO surveys at the culvert locations to help with the permitting. Darren met with Brian Hintsala, Design Engineer with AECOM and discussed a 24'-26' precast concrete box structure at the location of the large washout. A site evaluation with the DEQ and the Army Corp of Engineers was held yesterday to begin sizing the structures. Randy VanPortfliet, Regional Engineer with the MDOT has called to offer assistance. There is a box culvert just to the east of the washout near the creek at Oman's that has the headwalls caving in. This culvert will be removed and placed at the washout location along the shoreline. A permit is needed through the Army Corps of Engineers as the shoreline now is where rip rap has been placed. A new box culvert will be installed at the east location. DEQ is working on fast tracking the permits. If funding comes through, the concern is that Lake Road will need to be shut down and the only access is through Powers Road. The plan is to get the far west structure installed so access to the other structures would be from the Wisconsin side as Powers Road is in no condition to be used for heavy equipment. After today clean up and maintenance will be done at the temporary crossings. The State of Michigan did their damage assessment. There is a SIB (State Infrastructure Bank) loan program with MDOT. It is a low or no interest loan and if other funding comes through, those funds would be tied to the loan for payments. Other road commissions have used it in the

past. Governor Snyder declared a State of Emergency and called in the National Guard to help with repairs. When Darren met with the Governor Snyder he advised him that the estimated cost to make repair is approximately 6 (six) million. Governor Snyder indicated that he didn't know where the funding would come from as there are protocol procedures that need to be taken. Darren added that he advised Governor Snyder that we are running out of time to make repairs with winter on its way. Darren stated we only have about 2 (two) months to work on the repairs. Darren also told Governor Snyder that if the usual MDOT bidding procedures are followed the repairs will not start until 2017. Commissioner D'Antonio asked about reimbursement for the disaster relief repairs that have been done so far. Darren explained that during the 2013 Flood, the funding for the emergency work reimbursed for over-time work only. Commissioner Siirila asked if the GCRC would be jumping the gun on obtaining a loan as there is money in the reserves. Darren suggested to the Board that they should consider the loan, as to not deplete the reserves. Chairman Bennetts stated that for the last flood event the funding reimbursement payments were way behind. Darren added that some of this funding may not come in for about 3 (three) years. D'Antonio asked if the work would be contracted out. Darren stated that the projects will need to be bid out. Siirila stated we need to fast track these projects. Darren advised the Board that with most of the temporary emergency work completed the workers are returning to regular maintenance work. D'Antonio asked if Darren felt confident that funding will be available. Darren stated it is up to State Representative Scott Dianda, Senator Scott Casperson and Governor Snyder if funding will be provided and bypassing the MDOT bidding process to get repairs started. D'Antonio stated that when the repairs are being done, Lake Road is going to be damaged more and asked if Darren was taking this into consideration. Darren stated that the reconstruction from Partridge Lane to the Wisconsin line is part of the 6 million figure. However, there are culverts along this stretch that didn't fail and need to be replaced. These culverts can't be included.

Siirila asked if the scheduled paving project on Lake Road will be done. Darren stated that this project needs to be completed or we will lose the funding. Darren asked the Board to decide on the scheduled projects contracted with the townships. He added that he contacted Mike Mottes regarding the chip sealing work that was planned and Mr. Mottes offered to hold this year's price for next year. Funding for Anvil Road, the township split amount of \$250,000 and East Shore Road chip seal were pulled at the Emergency Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2016. Darren said that all chip seal work will not be completed this year because there is not enough work to warrant the contractor to come to the area. He did contact the contractor and they will hold this year's price for next year. Discussion took place about the Vanderhagen Road paving which is an Ironwood Township match project. A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2nd by Siirila, with all in favor to postpone all township contracted projects that have not been started until further notice.

Drier was excused at 4:43 pm.

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Siirila asked if there have been any issues with the union employees during this emergency. Darren said that all workers that signed up for work on Saturday worked except for 1 (one). All workers were off on Sunday.

Siirila questioned the sick leave. He stated that Roger Hill, HEO, left work for a funeral and when he returned, he was told he could not come back to work. He stated that Patti Hagstrom, Office Manager, attended the same funeral and returned to work. He stated usage either by union employees or the administrative staff should be consistent. This item will be discussed at another time.

- VI. Public Comment** ~ Tom Schneller with Snow County Contracting stated that prevailing wage contracts should be avoided during the process to fast track the repairs need on Lake Road. He suggested possibly adding a bike/walking trail from Partridge Lane to the Wisconsin Line as funding is almost always awarded for these types of projects. Bernie Brunello asked if Brace Road is passable and it is.
- VII. Adjourn** ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by D'Antonio to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 pm.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Secretary

Chairman