

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
GOGEBIC COUNTY ~ BESSEMER MICHIGAN

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016

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

Present: Art Lyons, Chairman Don Bennetts, Vice-Chairman
 Rob Drier, Commissioner Marti Wegner, Commissioner
 Dan Siirila, Commissioner Darren Pionk, Engineer/Manager
 Patricia Hagstrom, Secretary

Also Present: 12 Public Attendees

- I. Chairman Lyons called the meeting to order at 5 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of Agenda ~ A motion was made by Bennetts, 2nd by Siirila, with all in favor to approve the agenda.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes ~
 - Regular Meeting of Monday, February 8, 2016 ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Wegner; with all in favor to approve the minutes.
- V. Public Comment ~ Pete Matonich stated he spoke with Mr. Turkal and that the Bessemer Planning Commission is waiting for the Road Commission Board to approve the site review proposal from UP Engineering & Architects. Mr. Matonich asked if this item is going to be discussed. Mr. Matonich stated that this review will cost additional money and will need to go through the proper steps. He questioned that if the plans are denied, if it is the intention of the Road Commission Board to go all the way to the courts to have the facility built on the location in question. Chairman Lyons stated that this will be discussed under the agenda item. Jim Manchester, GCRC employee, notified the board that AFSCME has drafted a proposal for the union contract. Roger Hill, GCRC employee, asked if loader 522 is going to be repaired as it has been broken down since October. Mr. Pionk stated that some parts have been delivered but are still waiting for other parts. Mr. Hill asked about 965 hot box which is used to heat up hot mix. He stated that it has been broke for two (2) years. Mr. Pionk advised him to ask Scott Cebolski, the shop foreman.
- VI. Payment of Bills ~ A motion was made by Siirila, 2nd by Wegner, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Wegner, Siirila, Bennetts & Lyons; Drier abstaining; that claims checks #64127 ~ #64165 in the amount of \$358,484.88, claims checks #64166 ~ #64179 in the amount of \$43,091.49, and payroll from 01/30/2016 to

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02/12/2016 in the amount of \$70,063.20 be approved for payment, and the supporting vouchers be signed by the board.

VII. Old Business

- a. Building/Property Discussion ~ Mr. Pionk discussed the proposal from the Bessemer Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the costs for UP Engineering to review the site plan. The GCRC would need to set up an escrow account in the amount of \$11,250 with the City of Bessemer Treasurer to pay these fees. Commissioner Siirila asked that the Road Commission Board hold off on this as there is no acting manager or zoning administrator for the City of Bessemer. A motion was made by Commissioner Siirila, 2nd by Drier, with Bennetts in favor; opposed by Lyons & Wegner abstaining; to table this item for a month. Motion passed 3 to 1.
- b. Ironwood to Bessemer Trail ~ Mr. Pionk advised the board that an easement will need to be written up stating that the trail will be constructed under the GCRC and that the MDNR will assume operations and maintenance of the trail and perpetuity. Mr. Pionk has forwarded this easement to legal counsel. Final documents will still need to be submitted for review and signatures. Commissioner Siirila supported the recommendation to proceed with the easement documentation as to not delay the project. The easement will be presented to the board upon completion for review and signatures.

VIII. New Business

- a. Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Safety Improvement Program ~ Documentation was received by MDOT regarding funding to road agencies electing to permanently close local roads at existing crossings. It is not the intention of the GCRC to close roads at railroad crossings; however there are numerous crossings in the county that are in need of repairs. Mr. Pionk would like to contact MDOT to request if there is any funding for crossing improvements. A motion was made by Lyons, 2nd by Wegner, with all in favor to have Mr. Pionk inquire and/or apply for any grants that may be available.
- b. Review Plow Truck Purchasing for 2016 ~ Mr. Pionk discussed the spreadsheet that was presented with the 2016 proposed budget on plow equipment needs. Scott Cebolski, Shop Foreman, discussed with the board the difference between asking for proposals and calling for bids for the purchase of four (4) new single axle trucks. The new trucks would be located in Marenisco and Watersmeet. A motion was made by Lyons, 2nd by Bennetts, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Bennetts, Siirila, Drier, Wegner & Lyons to request proposals for bidding with a due date of Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at

1 pm central time. The bid tabulations will be presented at the next board meeting on Monday, March 28, 2016. Commissioner Wegner asked about the refurbishing of equipment. Scott Cebolski explained that Valley Trucks did come to Bessemer to look at two (2) trucks. Estimates came in at about \$75,000 which is basically for the drive train and hydraulics. The refurbishing would give the trucks approximately 10 to 15 years of additional operation. This is a good option for pre-emission trucks. More information will be presented at a later meeting.

- IX. Engineer/Manager Reports ~ Mr. Pionk discussed the status on 2016 projects and job openings. Mr. Stempihar asked if there was a deadline for submitting job applications. No action was taken.
- X. Public Comment ~ Commissioner Wegner would like to thank all of the workers who have worked overtime this winter season. Pete Matonich asked the Road Commission Board if it was their intention to go as far as Circuit Court to be able to build the new facility at the location in question. A motion was made by Bennetts, 2nd by Lyons, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Drier, Wegner, Bennetts & Lyons; Siirila opposed; to continue with the process for the new facility. Commissioner Siirila stated that there should be more compliments towards the workers. Mr. Matonich stated he is having a hard time understanding that the board is not responding to the public response on the concerns with this location. Mr. Contratto stated that at the last meeting there were four (4) police officers stating their opposition of the location due to traffic safety. He asked how the board is going to address the traffic safety problem. Mr. Stempihar questioned the other locations that have been looked at in the past and stated that he has not met anyone yet who is in favor of the facility location. Roger Hill, road commission employee, stated that the employees were never asked their opinion on this location and spoke about the salt train deliveries at this location. Peter Pairolero asked why this location was selected and why the location near Steiger's was not selected. Commissioner Wegner asked the members of the audience where they resided. She stated that she has gone down the road in question and did not have an issue turning towards Ironwood. A resident of that area spoke about a near accident that he avoided at this intersection.
- XI. Adjourn ~ A motion was made by Lyons, 2nd by Siirila, with all in favor to adjourn at 7:11 pm.

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