

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

**REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017**

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.

<b>Present:</b> Marti Wegner, Chair	Roy D'Antonio, Vice-Chair
John Matonich, Commissioner	Dan Peterson, Commissioner
Kevin Haustein, Commissioner	Darren Pionk, Engineer/Manager
Patricia Hagstrom, Secretary	

**Also Present:** 8 Public Attendees

- I. **Call to Order** ~ Chair Wegner called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Approval of Agenda** ~ A motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D'Antonio, with all in favor to approve the agenda with the following addition: NB. g. Letters of Appreciation.
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** ~ A motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Haustein, with all in favor to approve the minutes from:
  - Township Discussion (Information Only) of Monday, July 24, 2017
  - Finance Meeting of Monday, July 24, 2017
  - Regular Meeting of Monday, July 24, 2017
- V. **Public Comment on Agenda Items (5 minute limit)** ~ Craig Hesse, owner of Vacation Land Resort in Watersmeet, commented on the closure of Thousand Island Lake Road during one of the weekends this summer. He stated that he was not contacted regarding the closure. Darren apologized and stated that it was not the intent to close the road but due to the depth of the culvert opening and soil conditions closure of the road was needed. Mr. Hesse asked if the culvert crossings would be paved this year. Darren stated that funding for the paving of these crossings came in late and that this work is scheduled for 2018. He added that the GCRC will maintain these crossings as needed. Matonich asked what the centerline feet is for the patching. Darren stated that it is 500'-600'. Matonich suggested that these locations be chip sealed. Darren will look into chip sealing these locations. Mr. Hesse added that the traffic volume on this road is high and that these crossings need constant attention. D'Antonio asked when the paving is scheduled to be completed in 2018. Darren state that work would likely begin in July of 2018 and be completed September of 2018. D'Antonio asked if there were any more culverts to be replaced on Thousand Island Lake Road. Darren stated that there is 1 location that is over the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River. Mr. Hesse added that the road near Whitefish Lake to the Wisconsin border is bad. Darren stated that this part of the road could possibly be done in the future. Mr. Hesse asked if there is a certain size that potholes have to be to be repaired. Scott Cebolski, East End Foreman, stated that the workers are out patching this week.  
Pat Walsh stated that Fishhawk Lake Road was repaired in 2013 and it didn't last a year. The road was total patched in 2016 and also didn't last. He asked if the potholes could be repaired. D'Antonio stated that this road should be looked at by the township for participation in repairs. Mr. Walsh said that there was discussion with the township to fix this road and that no one got back to Mike Rogers. Darren added that when roads are a

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priority for the townships they are also priority of the GCRC. Mr. Walsh asked about all of the paving that has been in the town of Watersmeet. Darren stated that the Bureau of Indian Affairs funded these projects. Mr. Walsh asked about the standards followed for road repairs as Beatons Lake was done and didn't hold up. Darren stated that there is a location in a swampy area that has deteriorated.

### VI. Old Business ~

- a. Special Appropriations Funding ~ Darren advised the Board that the GCRC can request 50% of the funds upfront. The remainder of the funds would be received through requests as the work is completed.
- b. Building Facility Development ~ Darren has met with representatives with the City of Ironwood and with Nick Jacobs, Gogebic County Prosecuting Attorney. A motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson, with all in favor to have Darren and Roy D'Antonio meet with Mr. Jacobs and move forward with the purchase of the property in the City of Ironwood Industrial Park.  
Matonich requested that the Board be provided with a list of properties that the GCRC owns that are not currently in use.
- c. HMA Culvert Patching Bids ~ Bids were due at 10am, today, August 14, 2017. No bids were received. There are 8 locations that need to be patched. Darren advised the Board that these locations can be left until next year or the patching can be done by the GCRC workers. He has checked with Northwood's Paving and Angelo Luppino and materials would be available from them. Discussion took place and it was agreed to have these locations patched by the GCRC workers.

### VII. New Business ~

- a. Change of Fiscal Year Discussion ~ A motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D'Antonio with all in favor to inform the state that the GCRC will change the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2018.
- b. Highland Copper Category A Grant Resolution ~ The previous Category A Grant for C.R. 519 N has expired. Highland Copper would like the GCRC to submit a Letter of Interest to MDOT and apply for the grant. A motion was made by Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Haustein with all in favor to adopt the following resolution of support:

GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT  
CATEGORY "A" GRANT APPLICATION FOR  
COUNTY ROAD 519

WHEREAS, the local Cities and Townships in Gogebic County have a long and traditional history of supporting the iron and copper mining ventures on the Gogebic range; and

WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Road Commission recognizes that the surrounding communities would benefit from jobs, infrastructure and support spending that the Copperwood Mine would bring to the area; and

WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Road Commission believes that the majority of all residents in Gogebic County are in support of the Mine; and

WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Road Commission Board is in support of Gogebic County Road Commission and Highland Copper upgrading County Road 519 to an "All Season" status.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gogebic County Road Commission fully supports the Copperwood Project proposed by Highland Copper and the upgrading of C.R. 519 to all season status for unrestricted year round commercial use.

## AUGUST 14, 2017 REGULAR MEETING CONTINUED

- c. Work Order for Additional Culvert Installation Lake Road ~ A work order was provided by MJO for additional culvert installation for 4 locations in the amount of \$79,127.97. A motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Haustein, with a roll call taken: Ayes ~ Haustein, Matonich, Peterson, D'Antonio & Wegner to approve the work order with MJO.
- d. Culvert Order for Additional Projects ~ A motion was made by D'Antonio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson, with all in favor to call for bids. The bids will be due at 10am on Monday, August 21, 2017. A special meeting will be held at 10:30am on Monday, August 21, 2017 to award the bid.
- e. CRASIF Board of Trustees Ballot ~ A motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson, with all in favor to vote for the 3 incumbents and for the UP Region challenger.
- f. Night Patrol Grievance ~ A motion was made by Haustein, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D'Antonio, with all in favor to consult Michael R Kluck & Associates regarding this issue.
- g. Letters of Appreciation ~ Letters were written to Senator Casperson, Representative Dianda, Marty Fittante (Senator Casperson's Chief of Staff), Denise Donohue (Director of the County Road Association) and Ed Noyola (Deputy Director of the County Road Association) for their assistance and support of the Special Grant of \$1,000.000 to repair additional locations that were damaged during the July 11, 2016 weather event.

**VIII. Public Comment** ~ Dan Siirila stated that he spoke with the State Emergency Manager and that he stated that he appreciated the assistance during the July 11, 2016 storm. He has gotten a request from Ironwood Township residents to have a lighted stop sign at the intersection of Lake and Airport Roads. He also commented on the culvert at the intersection of Slade Road and Oak Hill Lane. Pat Walsh asked why a new facility is being considered more towards the west of the county. Darren explained that the location has all of the utilities, etc. needed. Other locations have been researched and the cost to have utilities, etc. installed at these locations would be costly. Matonich commented on the positive emails received regarding Darren.

**IX. Adjourn** ~ A motion was made by Haustein, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson, with all in favor to adjourn at 6:32 pm.

## BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

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Secretary

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Chair