

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DICKINSON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Dickinson County Road Commission was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Road Commission office located at 1107 S. Milwaukee Ave., Iron Mountain, MI 49801.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carey and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bilski, Commissioner Olson, Commissioner Brisson, and Commissioner Carey

**ABSENT:** None

Also present were: Jim Harris, Managing Director; Missy Berger, Director of Finance; Lance Malburg, Engineer; Todd Donaldson, Superintendent of Roads; Henry Wender, County Board Liaison; Don Minerick, Sagola Township; Louis Sturm, Waucedah Township; Denny Olson, Breitung Township; Kim Oman, West Branch Township; Penny Skogman, West Branch Township and Brian Lindholm, Dickinson County Road Commission.

**CITIZEN'S TIME:** Denny Olson, Breitung Township Supervisor stated the displeasure that Breitung Township has regarding the new proposed Local Roads Policy and urged the Board to revisit. He further stated that Breitung Township is very concerned with the direction this policy is going and the impact it will have on the relationship with the Road Commission.

**APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA:** Chairman Carey asked if anyone had any amendments to the agenda. Being none, a motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Brisson to approve the agenda. All ayes, and the motion carried.

**APPROVE REPORTS:** A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Brisson to approve the Managing Director, Director of Finance, Engineer, Superintendent, and Construction Supervisor reports as presented. All ayes and the motion carried.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Commissioner Brisson and supported by Commissioner Bilski to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting. All ayes and the motion carried.

**APPROVE PAYMENTS:** A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to approve payrolls in the amount of \$147,853.36. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve time checks in the amount of \$220,589.37. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve material bills in the amount of \$312,690.19. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

The total for the approved was \$681,132.92.

**WOODBINE BERM DISCUSSION:** Managing Director Harris stated that he received correspondence from Steve Mulka, Breitung Township Superintendent explaining that they will be doing a water main extension project on Woodbine and requested the berm be removed that we put up in 2021. After a brief discussion it was determined to revisit this agenda item next year.

**TURNER ROAD UPDATE/LETTERS:** Managing Director Harris stated that he has attended two meetings in Sagola Township regarding the Turner Road. The Sagola Township Board has approved up to \$112,000.00 toward a 50/50 match with the Road Commission to reconstruct Turner Road from M95 to Carey Avenue. He further stated that after speaking with Finance Director Berger the Road Commission will budget for this project in 2023 per Board approval. Chairman Carey stated that the Road Commission has embarked on a letter writing campaign to elected officials to see if we can receive additional funding.

**COUNTY ROAD 573 BRIDGE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL DISCUSSION:** Managing Director Harris stated he was approached by the Snowmobile Club requesting permission to continue crossing the bridge if they provide a document stating that they would take on the liability, do a bond or something in case there is damage to the new asphalt. Engineer Malburg stated he is concerned about the damage that could possibly be done. Commissioner Bilski stated the snowmobile club is willing to sign an affidavit thru the MDNR stating they will take over responsibility for any damage. Managing Director Harris stated he will contact Attorney Tinti and the MDNR regarding how to proceed.

**LOCAL ROAD POLICY:** Managing Director Harris stated this is the same policy that was presented to the Board last month and tabled until he could get more Township input. He further stated that Norway and Breen Townships contacted him directly to show their support for the new policy. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the current policy. The Townships that were present shared ideas and concerns. Also discussed were budgetary concerns, crew size and the impact on Primary and Local Road maintenance. Chairman Carey tabled the item until the next meeting where examples of project work done in 2022 can be put together to show the actual numbers and how the 75/25 policy worked.

**COUNTY BOARD LIAISON:** Henry Wender, County Board Liaison stated he had nothing to report. Chairman Carey stated that today was Henry's birthday and the audience sang Happy Birthday. The Board thanked him for his years of service and commitment.

**TOWNSHIP COMMENTS:** Kim Oman, West Branch Township Board Clerk inquired why the Leeman Road was never completed. Don Minerick, Sagola Township Supervisor asked if some of the Leeman Road was going to be turned back to gravel. Denny Olson, Breitung Township Supervisor gave details regarding the next Township Association Meeting. He further inquired about when the millage is up for renewal and how the revenue is allocated.

**CITIZENS TIME:** None

**COMMISSIONERS PRIVILEGE:** Commissioner Olson inquired if we had enough crew. Managing Director Harris stated that most of the winter temps will be coming back and we are in good shape at this time.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about tree cutting.

Commissioner Brisson stated that the State of Michigan touted a 7% increase in road funding, but then explained that our current year MTF's are down from this time last year. With gas prices increasing and people traveling less it is having an impact on our budget.

Managing Director Harris stated that we would come up with clarifications on the proposed Local Road Policy. He further stated he and Director of Finance Berger discussed dedicating millage monies to Local Road Projects, but did acknowledge that most funding goes into one big pot of money.

Engineer Malburg stated that County Road 581/426 project is moving forward and that MDOT federal aid buyout funds will be used. He further stated that we are working with MI Tech again on a glass project and waiting for the contract from EGLE. Additionally, he informed the Board that he has been invited to the Midwest Bridge Preservation Partnership meeting in Lexington, Kentucky to give a presentation on the 573 Bridge project as this is the first on of its kind. He then showed an abbreviated presentation that he will be giving.

Director of Finance Berger informed the Board that the renewal rate for health insurance only increased by 4.9%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to adjourn. All ayes, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.



---

Jim Carey, Chairman



---

Missy Berger, Secretary