

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DICKINSON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Dickinson County Road Commission was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 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 Bilski, Commissioner Olson, Commissioner Brisson, Commissioner Johnson 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; Mike Cline, Sagola Township Supervisor; Denny Olson, Breitung Township Supervisor; Louis Sturm, Waucedah Township Supervisor; Rick Carey, Sagola Township and Grant Carlson, Sagola Township.

CITIZEN'S TIME: Grant Carlson, Sagola Township thanked the Board and crew for the culvert fix and great plowing service on Kimberly Lane. Mr. Carlson then raised his concerns regarding the erection of gates on Silver Lake property. Chairman Carey stated a five-year (5) permit has been issued to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and they will be taking care of the gate issue.

APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA: Chairman Carey asked if anyone had any amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Bilski made a motion and supported by Commissioner Johnson to amend agenda to add item 16a to change the November meeting date of Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, and item 16b to add Primary Urban Road discussion. 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 Bilski and support by Commissioner Johnson to approve meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 12, 2023. All ayes and the motion carried.

APPROVE PAYMENTS: A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve payrolls in the amount of \$182,001.68. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye and Chairman Carey - aye. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brisson and supported by Commissioner Olson to approve time checks in the amount of \$191,031.75. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye and Chairman Carey - aye. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Brisson to approve material bills in the amount of \$271,820.84. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

The total for the approved was \$644,854.27.

**COUNTYLINE ROAD DISCUSSION:** Managing Director Harris informed the Board that Todd Rowell had found the original paperwork indicated the acceptance of 1.5 miles and deeds for a portion of the northern section of the Countyline Road. A brief discussion took place. Managing Director Harris stated he will be contacting Menominee CRC for any information they may have.

**FOSTER CITY/COUNTY ROAD 569 BRIDGE DISCUSSION:** Engineer Malburg informed the Board that weight and axle limits have been posted on the bridge, and that this will help with future funding. A brief discussion took place.

**CHEESE FACTORY/NURSE CARLSON ROAD ALL- SEASONS DISCUSSION:** Engineer Malburg stated that he would like to designate the Cheese Factory Road/Nurse Carlson Road from M69 to County Road 569 to the All-Seasons Road List. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to designate the Cheese Factory/Nurse Carlson Road from M69 to County Road 569 as an All-Seasons Road. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, and Chairman Carey - aye. The motion carried.

**MERS PARTICIPATION DISCUSSION:** Finance Director Berger stated MERS now offers the DC+ plan (457b) to Defined Benefit, Part Time and Seasonal employees and she would like to implement. She further stated that MERS is requiring the Road Commission to set a default contribution rate if a new employee fail to make an election. A discussion ensued regarding the percentage to set as the default. A motion was made by Commissioner Brisson and supported by Commissioner Johnson to authorize Finance Director Berger to sign the MERS 457 Participation Agreement to allow new eligible employees to the DC+ program, the MERS Uniform Supplemental Retirement Program Resolution, the Contribution Addendum for MERS Defined Contribution setting default rate at 2% and the MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, and Chairman Carey - aye. The motion carried.

**HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION:** Director of Finance Berger informed the Board she contacted the Western Michigan Self Insurance Pool and that we can change Health Insurance eligibility to the date of hire. A brief discussion took place. A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and supported by Commissioner Bilski to offer Health Insurance to new employees at the date of hire from 90 days. Roll call vote: Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye and Chairman Carey – aye.. The motion carried.

**FACILITY/FIRE DISCUSSION:** Managing Director Harris informed the Board of the recent fire at the Marquette County Road Commission's salt facility in Republic. He went on to state that he has looked into fire alarm detection systems for the Road Commission's buildings. Managing Director Harris then provided the Board with two quotes. A discussion took place. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Brisson to authorize Managing Director to accept the low bid provided by Northwood Electric Contracting of \$13,450.00 to install a fire alarm system. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Brisson – aye. Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Johnson - aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

**SIGN THEFTS:** Managing Director Harris stated that sign thefts throughout the County have been increasing as well as the cost of replacement of the signs. A discussion took place on prosecution, rewards and preventative measures.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT DISCUSSION:** Finance Director Berger stated that the accounting program is set up for direct deposit and that it will be implemented in the coming weeks.

**DATE CHANGE FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING:** A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and supported by Commissioner Johnson to change the date of

the Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.  
 Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye,  
 Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye and Chairman Carey – aye.  
 The motion carried.

URBAN PRIMARY ROAD DISCUSSION: Engineer Malburg informed the Board of a possible change that can be made to increase the Road Commissions Urban Primary Road System which will bring in more MTF dollars. A discussion took place regarding potential funding opportunities. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution accepting changes to the Urban Primary Road System. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Brisson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD LIAISON: None

TOWNSHIP COMMENTS: Denny Olson, Breitung Township Supervisor stated that the Township Association Meeting will be held at Breitung Township the following Monday and that Lois Ellis from the Dickinson Area Economic Alliance will be presenting.

CITIZENS TIME: None

COMMISSIONERS PRIVILEGE: Engineer Malburg gave a paving schedule update. Managing Director Harris stated that ribbon cuttings for newly paved roads will be postponed until the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Bilski inquired about funding for County Road 573.

Chairman Carey told the audience about a recent road trip he had taken out East and that the best shoulders he encountered were in Dickinson County and complimented all Road Commission staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn. All ayes, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55P.M.

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 Jim Carey, Chairman

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 Missy Berger, Secretary