

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DICKINSON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Dickinson County Road Commission was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 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, and Commissioner Carey

ABSENT: Commissioner Brisson (excused)

Also present: Jim Harris, Managing Director; Missy Berger, Director of Finance; Lance Malburg, County Engineer; Todd Donaldson, Superintendent of Roads; Peter Swanson, County Board Liaison; Ryan Mulder, Sagola Township Supervisor; Louis Sturm, Waucedah Township Supervisor; Denny Olson, Breitung Township Supervisor; Michael Day, Breitung Township Trustee; Justin Massie, Dickinson County Road Commission and Guy Livermore, Dickinson County Road Commission.

CITIZEN'S TIME: None

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 Johnson to approve the agenda. All ayes, and the motion carried.

APPROVE REPORTS: A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson 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 supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting. All ayes and the motion carried.

APPROVE PAYMENTS: A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner Bilski to approve payrolls in the amount of \$236,882.75. Roll Call Vote: 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 Olson to approve time checks in the amount of \$186,471.09. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner Olson to approve material bills in the amount of \$188,957.53. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

The total for the approved was \$612,311.37.

ADOPT ACT NO. 88 MERS RESOLUTION: Director of Finance Berger explained adopting Act No. 88 will allow employees who worked for more than one Michigan governmental employer to combine years of service to help them qualify for a pension. A brief discussion ensued. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and

supported by Commissioner Johnson to adopt Act No. 88 MERS resolution, and if there are any costs to the Road Commission, the employee will be liable for said costs. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

ADOPT RESOLUTION AND SIGN AGREEMENT WITH HOUGHTON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOR THE SALE OF 2026 FEDERAL AID DOLLARS: Engineer Malburg informed the Board of Houghton County Road Commissions desire to purchase our 2026 Federal Aid Dollars. A discussion took place regarding the advantages of selling the Federal Aid Dollars. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to adopt resolution and sign agreement with the Houghton County Road Commission for the sale of the 2026 Federal Aid Dollars. In addition to the 2026 agreement, Houghton County Road Commission will also be requesting annually the same for 2027 – 2029. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS FOR 2028 CRITICAL BRIDGE FUNDING: Engineer Malburg informed the Board that the resolutions and priority list are required for 2028 Critical Bridge funding. A discussion took place regarding the rehabilitation of the County Road 426 Bridge over the Ford River and the Newberg Road Bridge over the Michigamme River. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to adopt the resolution for the County Road 426 Bridge over the Ford River. Roll Call Vote: 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 Olson to adopt the resolution for the Newberg Road Bridge over the Michigamme River. Roll Call Vote: 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 Johnson to approve the priority list indicating priority #1 is County Road 426 Bridge over the Ford River and priority #2 is Newberg Road Bridge over the Michigamme River. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

CHEESE FACTORY ROAD DISCUSSION: Managing Director Harris explained to the Board that a portion of the Cheese Factory Road was improved to All Season Standards, but the other portion of the road is in poor condition. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the realignment of the road, associated costs in acquiring the land and paying for the project with a SIB loan at 3 ¼% interest. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Johnson to authorize the purchase of the land required for realignment in the amount of \$7,500.00 contingent on MDOT's approval of the realignment. Roll Call Vote: 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 Olson to authorize Managing Director Harris and Director of Finance Berger to apply for a SIB loan contingent on MDOT's approval of the realignment. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

OLD 69 ROAD DISCUSSION: Managing Director Harris stated that Sagola Township would like to change the 2025 Local Road project from the Carbis Road to a project on Old 69, which is a Primary Road. A discussion ensued regarding the building Old 69 Road to Local Road Standards, All Seasons Road status, length and costs of the project. Managing Director Harris additionally informed the Board that we have built Primary Roads to Local Road standards and need Board approval to do. A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to go out to bid to build Old 69 Road in Sagola Township to Local Road Standards. Herzog Road and

Old 69 Road will be placed out to bid together. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Johnson – aye, Commissioner Bilski – aye, Commissioner Olson – aye, and Chairman Carey – aye. The motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD LIAISON: Peter Swanson, County Board Liaison stated Controller Bousley would be getting in touch with Managing Director Harris regarding Grant Writing.

TOWNSHIP COMMENTS: Denny Olson, Breitung Township Supervisor reminded the Board of the upcoming Township Association Meeting on Monday, March 17th at the Breitung Township Hall and that a presentation will be given by Road Commission Staff on Road Funding. He went on to state that he had invited the County Board.

Ryan Mulder, Sagola Township Supervisor stated the Township is going to get some roads fixed.

Louis Sturm, Waucesha Township Supervisor asked if SIB loans can be taken out for Local Road Projects. A discussion took place regarding the pro's and con's of taking out SIB loans for Buildings and Local Road Projects.

CITIZENS TIME: None

COMMISSIONERS PRIVILEGE: Todd Donaldson, Superintendent of Roads stated that Road Restrictions are on.

Engineer Malburg stated he has rough estimates for the 2025 non-motorized project. He then informed the Board of changes being implemented by the Federal and State to Annual Permits in 2026. A brief discussion took place.

Director of Finance Berger informed the Board that the OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits) is funded at 48%. She then told the Board the first installment payment for the County Road 573 State Grant project was received last week.

Managing Director Harris thanked the Board for approval of the Cheese Factory Road realignment project. He then complimented the crew for the great job done on remodeling the front of the office, and that the wall and door installed provides more security.

Commissioner Bilski thanked the crew for keeping the roads open and the good job they did during the past storms.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to adjourn. All ayes, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Jim Carey, Chairman

Missy Berger, Secretary