

**APPROVED MINUTES
ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
April 1, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

Pursuant to resolution, the Regular Meeting of the Alger County Road Commission was held at the Road Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chair Marci Taskey with the following members present: Marci Taskey, Pete Heyrman & John Hermann. Absent: None.

Also present: Finance Director Daniel Rushford, Dan Carlson, Shane Bugg, CJ Custard, Roy Aho, Brian Menghini, Tim Swajanen, Heidi Swajanen, Tom Curry, Mike Nettleton, Jim Rondeau & Mickey Rondeau.

APPROVAL/CHANGES TO AGENDA

John Hermann wanted to move New Business Item A, Engineer-Manager Contract after Commissioner Topics. A motion was made by John Hermann to approve the amended agenda. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 3/18/24 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the minutes of the 3/18/2024 Regular meeting. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman & Marci Taskey. Nays: John Hermann. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A motion was made by John Hermann to approve the Accounts Payable, which is due in the April in the amount of \$168,814.65 and to authorize payment when funds are available. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Curry, Limestone Township Supervisor, mentioned his concerns about Diffin Road, a County Primary Road in Limestone Township. He said that every spring it is bad and that the road must be maintained. There has been nothing significant done in at least 20 years and that something needs to be done.

Lindbeck stated that it is a County Primary and that it would be 100% responsible by the Alger County Road Commission. He stated that it would need at least a two foot lift. He and the board agreed that we would look into a ¼ mile section for the 2025 Budget.

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Mickey Rondeau spoke of the guardrails on N Eben Rd over the Slapneck. Custard explained that four inches of gravel was added after the guardrail was installed, as part of the Rock River Township road millage project. Custard proposed removing the excess gravel at the guardrail this summer. The board agreed to Custard's solution.

MDOT Maintenance Work:

Road Crews have done a stellar job at snow removal, during the storm events. Road Commission foremen continue to schedule additional tree cutting for MDOT.

State Bridge Bundling Options for Woodland Road Bridge and Kivamaki Road Bridge:

The planning process continues for both structures, with construction delayed until funds become available.

H-58 over the Sucker River Bridge:

Preliminary plans include a 40-foot span precast concrete arch bridge structure. Final plans and advertisement will likely occur in the spring of 2024. The goal is to advertise for bids in mid-April.

Chapel Road Construction Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant:

Bacco Construction plans to begin earthwork, after weight restrictions are removed in 2024. I will be performing construction staking in early April.

2024 H-58 Project (Miners Castle Road to 1.5 miles East):

The project has been awarded to Payne & Dolan, Inc. Construction is planned to begin on August 5th.

Rapid River Truck Trail Pulverizing and Paving Bids:

The project has been awarded to Bacco Construction. I will be performing construction survey work on this project.

Ridge Road Paving Bids:

The 600-foot section of roadway, extending south from M-28 has been awarded to Payne & Dolan. The Road Commission will coordinate preparatory work, prior to paving.

Chipseal Emulsion Bids:

Sealed bids will be opened on Wednesday, April 10th at 1:00 for chipseal and dura-patch emulsion.

Union Negotiations Strategy:

I have proposed April 10th as the first meeting in negotiations, but have not received confirmation of that date from the Union President.

2025 H-58 Project (Rosemund Road to 1.75 miles West):

I have started the design process and will be working through the MDOT Local Agency Programs process to deliver the job to bid letting.

Spring Safety and Operations Meeting:

I prepared an agenda for our spring Safety Meeting. The May 3rd program will include presentations from both MCRC SIP and CRASIF.

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Annual CRA Legislative Conference and Road Show:

Our Finance director (Dan Rushford), commissioners Taskey and Heyrman, and I attended the Lansing conference. It was extremely informative regarding the funding challenge that will face transportation agencies, with the increased efficiency of hybrid and electric vehicles. There were in-depth sessions on the development of the new CRA accounting software, CRA construction documentation software, and many other topics. I have included a handout to illustrate the not-so-simple Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). The collection process has gained some complexity, since the legislation took effect in 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mickey Rondeau had asked about the status of the DNR trail near H-58 over the Miner's River. Lindbeck stated that he doesn't have an update as far as relocating their trail, but we are still going to close that stretch of road to snowmobiles at the end of this season.

COMMISSIONER TOPICS

John Hermann would like to have our website updated with our agenda and other board information. Taskey stated that it would cost more and have issues with updating agendas as necessary. Mike Nettleton suggested that we check with the Clerk's Office. Brian Menghini suggested that we have a deadline to update an agenda. This will be placed on our April 15 Agenda.

Hermann asks about the No Parking Signs on Swajanen Rd being taken down at the end of the Ice Caves Season. Lindbeck stated that they would be taken down and returned for the next season.

Hermann asked about the Johnson Lane Bridge. Lindbeck stated that Onota Township has it on their agenda tonight at 7:00 p.m.

Hermann asked about Sandy Lane in Burt Township. Shane Bugg stated that Burt Township has tabled it.

NEW BUSINESS

ENGINEER-MANAGER CONTRACT

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CLOSED SESSION: Engineer-Manager Contract – (OMA 15.268, Section 8e)

A motion to **go into closed session** was made by Pete Heyrman, and supported by Marci Taskey. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey, and John Hermann. Nays-None. Absent-None. Motion Carried. Closed Session began at 4:36 p.m.

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

A motion to **come out of closed session** was made by John Hermann, and supported by Marci Taskey. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey, and John Hermann. Nays-None. Absent-None. Motion Carried. Closed Session ended at 5:36 p.m.

A motion was made by Marci Taskey to extend the engineer/manager contract 1 year, and to raise his salary by 2.5% starting May 1, 2024. Supported by John Hermann. Ayes: Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: Pete Heyrman. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Marci Taskey, Chair

Daniel Rushford, Finance Director