

**LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
5:07 p.m.**

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Present: Mr. Dale Duckert, Chairman; Mr. Douglas Hodge, Vice Chairman; Mr. Joseph Suma, Member

In Attendance: Mr. William Meinz, County Highway Engineer; Mr. Ryan Doyle, Assistant Engineer; Ms. Tami Erickson, /Acting Board Secretary; Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Erick Pearson, Managing Director

Also in attendance: Mr. Norm Snoblin and Mr. Tom Carr.

Mr. Dale Duckert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

**Approve Agenda:**

**022708-046**

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye; Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

**022708-047**

Motion by Mr. Hodge, seconded by Mr. Suma to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following,

Consent Agenda:

Approve Minutes For:	Committee of the Whole 02/11/08
	Finance Meeting 02/13/08
	Regular Meeting 02/13/08
	Township Meeting 02/19/08

Approve Payment of Bills: \$280,411.94

Roll Call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye; Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee Report:**

Mr. Duckert reported that the Finance Committee met at 5:04 p.m. and approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$280,411.94.

**Policy Committee Report:**

Mr. Hodge reported that he is approximately one-fourth of the way through the review of the current policy book.

Mr. Hodge also reported that he has been working on the Goals and Objectives, and would like to review this with the other Board Members at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting, once Mr. Duckert returns from surgery.

**Annual Township Meeting:**

Mr. Suma reported that the Annual Township Meeting had been quite well attended. Mr. Suma reported that there was a lot of discussion regarding the decline in funding to repair and maintain the roads within the county, and there was commitment to pursue alternative funding options.

Mr. Hodge reported that Mr. Pearson's presentation was very well received. Mr. Hodge stated that he had heard a lot of positive feedback, and that the Townships really liked the visual display and explanations of the different road improvement processes.

Mr. Pearson stated that he believed the presentation will really help all of the Township representatives understand the process, and help them to make better decisions.

**Resolution:**

**022708-044**

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the contract between MDOT and LCRC for Safety Project utilizing Federal Surface Transportation Funds and Federal High Risk Rural Road Funds in the amount of \$293,600.00 and Authorizing the Chairman, Dale Duckert, to sign said document.

Discussion: Mr. William Meinz stated that this contract actually covers three projects, in three locations, and all projects are 100% federally funded. The first location is Washburn and Mt. Morris Road. This project includes the installation of a flashing safety beacon, and a dusk to dawn overhead light. The second location is at the intersection of Elba and Davison Roads. This project includes the installation of dual flashers, additional signage, and tree removal. Mr. Meinz stated that the third project is located on Metamora Road from the South Village Line to Broker Road. The project involves the removal of 400 trees, new signage, and delineators on this two-mile section.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

**Manager's Report:**

Mr. Pearson stated that bituminous paving bids were tabulated. Mr. Pearson reported that the prices received for 2008 paving are actually down from 2007. Mr. Pearson stated that this was mainly due to the reduction of work in the state.

**022708-049**

Motion by Mr. Hodge, seconded by Mr. Suma to approve the 2008 Bituminous Paving Bids as presented and award in the best interest of the County.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that the pavement marking bids had also been tabulated. Mr. Pearson stated that M & M Pavement Marking was the lowest bidder. Mr. Pearson stated that M & M had been the lowest bidder for the last several years, and have done a good job. Mr. Pearson also stated that both Waterborne and Dry Marking were bid, however, due to the large difference in price, and the slight difference in wear ability, it does not warrant a change to Dry Marking.

**022708-050**

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the 2008 Pavement Marking Bids as presented and award in the best interest of the County.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that he and Mr. Van Den Berg were currently analyzing the grader bids. Mr. Pearson stated that as soon as the weather was conducive, he would also like to consult the operators and receive their preferences regarding the selection of the graders. Mr. Pearson stated that he would, however, like the Board to approve the Bid Tabulations and award the graders in the best interest of the county, as he would like to order the graders as soon as a decision is reached. Mr. Pearson stated that it takes approximately five months to receive the graders once they are ordered.

**022708-051**

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Hodge to approve the 2008 Grader Bids as presented and award in the best interest of the County.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson reported that the cost for winter maintenance due to the continuous snowfall has hit the budget hard. Mr. Pearson reported that the cost for winter maintenance to date is \$1,700,000.00, while the budget for this year was \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Pearson stated that while salt and labor costs make up a large portion of that number, the fuel costs for November, December, January, and February has been \$245,000.00. Mr. Pearson reported that salt usage through February 17, 2008 was 12,000 ton, and total salt usage by the end of the season will be close to 15,000 ton. Mr. Pearson also reported that to date approximately 5,000 ton of sand has also been used. Mr. Pearson reported that this has been the worst February on record, and during February alone, the Road Commission has spent a total of \$575,000.00 on winter maintenance.

Mr. Pearson stated that Detroit Salt, our supplier, has committed to filling all of our salt ordered, but they will not be providing any emergency salt, as they have done in the past. Mr. Pearson reported that the State of Michigan and all of the counties are in the same condition. Mr. Pearson stated that MDOT had even put out a request for bids for emergency salt to several vendors, and they did not receive any bids. Mr. Pearson stated that the Imlay Garage received 100 ton of salt, and the North Branch Garage also received 100 ton of salt this week. The Lapeer Garage is supposed to receive 250 ton. Mr. Pearson stated that they will continue to mix sand and salt in a 3 to 1 ratio, to make the remaining salt supply last as long as possible.

**Engineer's Report:**

Mr. Mainz reported that he is keeping a close watch on the weather and the roads to determine when to put the frost laws into effect. Mr. Mainz stated that they usually go into effect during the first two weeks of March, however, with all of the extreme cold that we have had they may be postponed.

Mr. Mainz reported that the final plans for the replacement of the Hutchinson Road Bridge will be ready at the end of the week, and that he will then have a cost estimate for the Township.

Mr. Mainz reported that he will be attending the Annual CRAM Conference in Lansing next week.

Mr. Mainz reported that he is working on the submission plans for the 2009 HRRR projects, and the next Federal Aid Bridge Projects, which are due in June.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. David Johnson, 8887 Silverwood Road

Mr. Johnson stated that he was present to discuss the tree cutting on Silverwood Road. Mr. Johnson stated that he objects to the cutting of the trees for two reason. The first reason being that he bought his farm a year and a half ago and has continued to watch the value of his property go down. Mr. Johnson stated that removing the trees in front of his house would reduce the curb appeal and bring the value of the property down even further.

Mr. Johnson stated that his second objection to the tree removal is that by removing the trees he will have no line of defense against the traffic if they should run off of the road. Mr. Johnson stated that his front porch is only 41 feet from the road, and without these trees he feels that he and his family are in danger of being killed by a car crashing into their porch. Mr. Johnson stated that people coming out of the bar could come tearing out and down the road and kill someone. Mr. Johnson stated that he also feels the trees protect the road by blocking the blowing snow.

Ms. Debbie Wymas, 8884 Silverwood Road

Ms. Wymas stated that she as also present to discuss the trees being cut on Silverwood Road. Ms. Wymas stated that in front of her house the trees are on the backside of the ditch and up on a bank. Ms. Wymas stated that they not only look nice, but they also keep the snow from drifting across the road.

Mr. Duckert inquired if we were repaving the road. Bill stated that the tree cutting is part of a High Risk Rural Road safety project. Mr. Mainz stated that these projects are designed to reduce fatalities and severe and incapacitating injury accidents. Mr. Mainz stated that the crash data is compiled by the Michigan State Police. Mr. Mainz stated that the Federal Government sets up these programs in areas that have higher than average crash rates. Discussion ensued regarding right-of-way and policies for the removal of trees.

Mr. Hodge excused himself from the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Mr. David McNally, 9917 Silverwood Road

Mr. McNally stated that he went to his farm and suddenly 200-year-old Maple trees had been cut down, with no prior notification. Mr. McNally stated that every stick of firewood was gone. Mr. McNally stated that he didn't agree with our interpretation of what and where the right-of-way was. Mr. McNally stated that what we did was illegal and he wanted to be compensated for his loss. Mr. Duckert stated that the work performed was all done with in the confines of the Laws of the State of Michigan. Discussion ensued regarding utilities in the right-of-way.

Mr. Duckert stated that he does understand all of the citizens concerns, but for the overall safety of the traveling public, the Road Commission will be moving forward with this project.

**Board Discussion:**

None

**022708-052**

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Duckert to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye. Two ayes. Motion carried.

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Dale Duckert, Chairman

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Linette Daily, Board Secretary