

**LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 25, 2009
8:07 a.m.**

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

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

Mr. Hodge, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Approve Agenda:

022509-034

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

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

Consent Agenda:

022509-035

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

Approve Minutes For:	Committee of the Whole 02/09/09
	Finance Meeting 02/11/09
	Regular Meeting 02/11/09

Approve Payment of Bills:	\$288,474.79
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Approve Projects:

Attica Township:

504-003-903200	Replace X-Tube - West Road between Five Lakes and Bray	\$2,000.00
504-003-903201	Replace X-Tube - West Road between Miller and Bray	\$2,000.00

Goodland Township:

504-009-903801	Replace X-Tube - Summers between Ewalt and Lyons	\$2,000.00
504-009-903802	Replace X-Tube - Ewalt between Blacks Corners and Summers	\$3,200.00

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

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Hodge reported that the Finance Committee met at 8:00 a.m. and approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$288,474.79.

Other Meetings Attended:

Mr. Duckert reported that all Board Members had attended the annual Township meeting at Almont Township's Fire Hall. Mr. Duckert stated that Mr. Pearson gave an in-depth presentation of the Road Commission, and he felt that everyone learned a great deal. Mr. Pearson stated that he has received a lot of very positive feedback regarding his presentation. Mr. Suma stated that the meeting was very well attended. Mr. Hodge stated that it was the best attended in recent history, with all 18 Townships represented.

Directing Manager Report:

Mr. Pearson reported that year to date winter maintenance has cost \$1,986,000.00. Mr. Pearson stated that we have exceeded our budgeted amount, and once winter maintenance is complete he will present the Board with a

budget amendment. Mr. Pearson stated any funding available for projects for the construction season will also be reevaluated at that time.

Mr. Pearson reported that Metamora Township has contacted him and would like to participate in purchasing the reflective strips for the stop signs. Mr. Pearson stated that Lapeer and Marathon Townships have already committed to purchasing the strips.

Mr. Pearson reported that he has ordered a street sweeper, which will be rented to clean and pick up the sand at the intersections with curb.

Mr. Pearson reported that the crews will not be cleaning out catch basins this year.

Mr. Pearson reported that Representative Kevin Daley notified him that Attorney General Mike Cox will be in our area in March and invited the Road Commission to meet with him regarding issues with in our county. Mr. Pearson stated that the date has not been set as of this time, but he will notify the Commissioners as soon as he has a date.

Mr. Pearson stated that currently the crews are having a lot of difficulty with cross culverts, which are frozen or have failed. Mr. Pearson stated there will be a number of tubes replaced when the temperature allows for it.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Meinz presented the bid tabulation of the Total Robotic Station System. Mr. Meinz explained that the low bidder, Positioning Solutions Co. meets all of the required specifications, and recommends awarding the bid to them.

022509-036

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Suma to award the Robotic Total Station System to Position Solutions Company, as the low bidder.

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

Mr. Pearson stated that this unit will pay for itself in a short period of time due to the increase in efficiency.

Mr. Meinz presented the bid tabulation for engineering design services for two projects, which may receive federal funding from the Stimulus package. Mr. Meinz stated that while the federal funding will probably only cover 1 mile of reconstruction of Imlay City Road, as the price that we received to design the entire 10.8 miles is so low, he would like to recommend having the entire road designed. Mr. Meinz stated that in this way, if more funds become available we will be ready to go. Mr. Hodge stated that he is not willing to spend the \$36,000 for design until we are certain that we are going to receive funding. Mr. Meinz stated that, as we can no longer sell our federal aid funds, and this road is eligible for federal aid, we will eventually use the plans to rebuild sections of the road. Mr. Pearson stated that Imlay City Road is by far in the worst shape of all of the roads in the county. Mr. Pearson stated that from all communications from MDOT we will be receiving \$750,000, which will do one mile of Imlay City Road. Mr. Pearson stated that if more funding becomes available we need to be "shovel ready" with plans; otherwise the additional funding may be awarded to someone else. Mr. Pearson stated that he does not want to be in the position to turn down any available funds, as our needs are so great. Mr. Hodge stated that he has expressed his concerns.

Mr. Mainz stated that he would also like approval for engineering design for the "missing piece" of Lake Nepessing Road, as urban funding may also become available, and we need to also be ready with those plans or the funding will go to the City of Lapeer.

022509-037

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Suma to accept the engineering design services bids for 10.8 miles of Imlay City Road, and award them in the best interest of the County.

Roll call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, nay, Suma, aye. Two ayes, one nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Hodge stated that he wants everyone to understand that the Board will be looking very closely at all expenses especially close during this time of declining funding. Mr. Hodge stated that everyone needs to understand that there are no sacred cows when it comes to cutting the budget.

022509-038

Motion by Mr. Duckert, seconded by Mr. Suma to accept the engineering design services bids for .4 miles of Lake Nepessing Road, and award them in the best interest of the County.

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

Mr. Mainz reported that he is currently working on safety projects, which are due on Friday. Mr. Mainz also reported that he has some local safety projects in the works, which are due the end of March.

Mr. Doyle reported that he has been successful in negotiating a permit with CN railroad for the Imlay City / Morris Road safety project. Mr. Doyle stated that he is hoping for a May letting.

Deputy Orrie Smith

Deputy Smith reported that he has had a busy month, which included quite a few escorts, and a lot of time patrolling on I-69 while our crews attempt to make repairs. Deputy Smith stated that he has issued quite a few tickets, as the public will not slow down in the work zones.

Deputy Smith reported that while frost laws are in force, there has not been very much truck traffic due to the economy. Deputy Smith stated that there have been several accidents, due to the weather. Deputy Smith also stated that the use of cell phones by drivers has also been a contributing factor.

Mr. Duckert inquired regarding the Agricultural Exception to the frost laws. Mr. Doyle stated that they can travel during the frost laws, but only by permit.

Mr. Suma stated that he is still seeing a lot of illegal plowing across the roads. Deputy Smith stated that the tags have been working quite well, and many of the other police departments are also using them.

Mr. Mainz stated that he approved a haul route agreement for 70 loads of concrete to be delivered to Detroit Water, utilizing Cade, Bowers and Wheeling Roads.

Communications and Resolution:

Ms. Erickson stated that she would like a motion to approve the continued use of the property adjacent to the Lapeer County Road Commission's Lapeer Facility by the Lapeer County Radio Controlled Wing Nuts Club's activities.

022509-039

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the continued use of the property adjacent to the Lapeer County Road Commission's Lapeer Facility by the Lapeer County Radio Controlled Wing Nuts Club's activities, and further to allow such activities to continue without further approval until revoked. The governing authority, Mayfield Township, shall handle all rules and regulations regarding the Club's activities.

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

Public Comment:

None

Board Discussion:

Mr. Duckert stated that he feels that we need to be ready with the plans to rebuild Imlay City Road. Mr. Duckert stated that this road is the one, which he receives the most complaints on, and something is going to need to be done, so paying for the plans will not be wasted. Mr. Hodge stated that his main concern is that we will not have the funding to do anything. Mr. Suma stated that the first step toward planning to do something with this road is to get the plans so that a dollar amount can be determined.

Mr. Suma inquired if it had been researched whether or not the Road Commission is required to hold a separate Finance Committee Meeting, or if it can be incorporated into the Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Erickson stated that she was unsure if Ms. Daily had done so, but would check with her upon her return.

022509-040

Motion by Mr. Suma, seconded by Mr. Hodge to no longer collect a per diem for the Finance Committee Meeting.

Mr. Duckert stated that it needs to be determined if the Road Commission is even required to hold a Finance Committee Meeting. Mr. Duckert stated that he would like to see this tabled until the requirements are clear.

022509-041

Motion by Mr. Duckert, Seconded by Mr. Hodge to table motion 022509-040 until the legal requirements are clear.

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

022509-042

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

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

Douglas Hodge, Chairman

Linette Daily, Board Secretary