

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners held a regular meeting in their offices north of Stephenson on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

Chair Betzinger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the following persons present or absent:

PRESENT: William Anderson, Roger Betzinger, Anthony Kakuk, Darrell Moilanen and Lisa Savord. Also present were Chuck Behrend, Dale Axtell, Darlene Nerat, John Nerat and Mark Jasper.

ABSENT: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public comments – None.

Public appearances – None.

Additions/corrections to minutes for 02/08/11 and 02/16/11 – There being no additions or corrections, Betzinger declared that the minutes will stand as recorded.

Financial Report –

	Receipts	Expenditures	Payables/ Reserves	Balances
Balance, February 07, 2011				\$1,774,427.27
Receipts thru 02/28/11	93,337.20			
Expenditures thru 02/28/11		269,113.53		
Balance, February 28, 2011				\$1,598,650.94
Michigan Transportation Funds	288,503.47			
Receipts thru 03/14/11	59,581.89			
Expenditures thru 03/14/11		91,322.92		
State Maint. & Equip. Advances			89,358.00	
Balance, March 14, 2011	441,422.56	360,436.45	89,358.00	\$1,766,055.38

Payables & Reserves

Payroll 03/17, 03/31 (Est.)			130,000.00	
Soc. Sec. 03/17, 03/31 (Est.)			9,945.00	
Reserve for workers compensation insurance			9,119.00	
Reserve for liability insurance			134,310.00	
Reserve for rental grader lease (Dec-09)			73,871.12	
Reserve for rental grader leases (Oct-10)			323,179.20	
Reserve 4% set-aside for township allocations (2005/2006)			24,326.64	
Reserve 4% set-aside for township allocations (2006/2007)			40,251.27	
Reserve for MCRC balance of Old US2 over Wilson Creek			52,559.78	
Reserve Hannahville 2% Funds-Town Line Rd to Vincent Ln Const.			17,632.69	
Reserve Hannahville 2% Funds-Town Line Rd to Vincent Ln Pave			26,092.51	
Reserve for MCRC balance of Town Line Rd to Vincent Ln Pave			47,907.00	
Reserve Hannahville 2% Funds-Cty Line Rd. Borings			1,217.76	
Reserve for Design of F4 Bridge over Big Cedar River			7,549.54	
Reserve for HVAC/Ventilation Unit-Steph Shop			83,835.00	
Reserve for 3 bridges (Daggett Twp)			0.00	
Reserve for F4 Lane bridge (HarrisTwp)			27,000.00	
Reserve for Forest Funds			161,023.46	
Reserve for equipment			55,974.00	\$ (1,225,793.97)
				\$ 540,261.41

There being no questions or comments, Betzinger declared the financial report accepted as read.

Vouchers # 11-0026, 11-0027, 11-0228, and 11-0029 – Betzinger asked for clarification on payments to Fabco Equipment and Dickinson County Road Commission. Moilanen explained what each invoice had been for. Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk, that the vouchers be approved and ordered paid. Carried unanimously.

Permission to bid 2011 Bridge Inspections - Moilanen clarified that he would be seeking Requests for Proposals, not bids, for this item. Moved by Kakuk, seconded by Anderson to have Moilanen request the RFP's. Carried unanimously.

Permission to bid Scrap Iron pickup – Moilanen explained that the current contract expires June 30, 2011. Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to have Moilanen advertise for bids for scrap iron pickup. Carried unanimously.

Permission to bid Culverts for 2011 Maintenance – Moilanen stated that the current contract expires on April 30, 2011. Moved by Kakuk, seconded by Anderson to have Moilanen advertise for bids for 2011 maintenance culverts. Carried unanimously.

Discuss items to submit for possible funding from Hannahville 2% Grants – Moilanen offered the following items for consideration:

1. Request for \$5000 to replace the copier/fax in the office. The current machine is over 7 years old and beginning to require much more maintenance.
2. Request \$45,000 to put toward the purchase of a new sign truck. The old sign truck is in poor repair and will likely need to be replaced before the mandated upgrade of all the signs in the county.

Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to submit the sign truck as the top priority and the copy machine as the second priority. Carried unanimously.

Discuss request from Hannahville Indian Community to haul waste along a route that includes Hannahville Road – Moved by Kakuk, seconded by Anderson to allow Hannahville Indian Community to use the proposed route as presented in Hannahville correspondence dated 3/7/11. Carried unanimously.

Permission to send employees to CRASIF/MCRCSIP Joint Safety Workshop – Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to allow Moilanen to send 5 – 7 employees to the workshop. Carried unanimously.

Permission for Engineer/Manager to attend BIA Transportation Meeting – Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to allow Moilanen to attend. Carried unanimously.

Any other business-Road Commission Staff - Moilanen requested permission to request RFP's/quotes for painting some of the plow trucks each year. Moved by Kakuk, seconded by Anderson to allow Moilanen to seek the RFP's/quotes. Carried unanimously.

Any Other Business-Commissioners – Betzinger stated that if the winter ends better financially than was budgeted, it may be a good idea to purchase a new mower since the existing equipment is old and broken down often. Moilanen stated that if revenues do not increase that mowing may be one of the things cut from the budget in the future. Renting a mower in the interim may be a possibility, Betzinger asked Moilanen to check on the cost of renting a mower for the summer months. Betzinger also asked about renting a crack sealer. Moilanen stated he planned to rent one this summer from a firm in Green Bay.

Betzinger asked why weight restrictions were put on as early as they were. Moilanen stated that the loggers were given the opportunity to continue to haul during the brief warm up period with the understanding to use caution if road conditions became soft. A few of the roads with logging activity experienced extensive damage, therefore, the decision was made to place weight restrictions on county wide to protect the county roads from further damage.

Betzinger asked whether the HVAC/Ventilation system at the Stephenson shop was working properly as it seemed to take too long to evacuate the exhaust. Moilanen stated that the contractor is aware and would be returning to see if further work needed to be done.

Public Comment – Dale Axtell asked who determined which bridges needed to be inspected. Moilanen replied that it was governed by Federal law.

John Nerat asked what the deadline was to install the new signs in the county and what the road commission's plans were to get them done. Moilanen stated they all had to be in place by 2015 and that the road commission would be doing a portion each year in 2012, 2013, and 2014 using Federal Aid force account funding as much as possible.

Darlene Nerat stated that a sign near her house has been crooked since it was installed and asked if the new sign truck would help with this issue. Moilanen stated that it could and that heavier posts would help also.

Mark Jasper stated that he felt it was a tough call to make for weight restrictions and meeting with the truckers in January or February to discuss road conditions may help. Moilanen also noted that this was an exceptional year for the amount of logging jobs in the county - there were approximately 10 logging jobs this year as opposed to 2 or 3 in past years.

Mr. Jasper stated that if mowing and brush chopping had to be eliminated to cut costs that it would probably create bad public relations for the road commission. Mr. Jasper asked if employees would be replaced as they left, going forward. Moilanen stated that he did not foresee any employees retiring in the near future. Mr. Jasper asked if there were less employees could the mowing be contracted out. Moilanen stated that contractors would want a long term commitment due to the cost of the equipment they would have to purchase.

Dale Axtell asked what authority the weighmaster has. Moilanen stated that he is considered a deputy sheriff and that he also has regulatory authority. Mr. Axtell asked if he had portable scales and if so how often they were used. Moilanen stated that he does have portable scales and uses them daily. Mr. Axtell also inquired about how much weight is legal per axle. Moilanen stated that it depends on the spacing of the axles.

Discuss Union Contract negotiations – Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to go into closed session at 9:54 a.m. to discuss union wage negotiations. Carried unanimously.

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Moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to return to open session at 10:23 a.m. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Kakuk, seconded Anderson to have Moilanen contact Laurie Berg, Union Business Agent, to discuss wage negotiations.

There being no further business, it was moved by Anderson, seconded by Kakuk to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

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Road Commission Finance Director/Clerk

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Chair