

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners held a regular meeting in their offices north of Stephenson on Tuesday, October 14, 2008.

Chair Betzinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following persons present or absent:

PRESENT: William Anderson, Roger Betzinger, Judy Nerat, Darrell Moilanen and Lisa Savord. Also present were Steve Mikus, William Prestay, Chuck Behrend, Darlene Nerat, John Nerat, Thomas Kmiecik, Gary Dantinne, Mike Zemba and Joe Skrobiak.

ABSENT: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to agenda - None.

Public comments - None

Public appearances - None.

Additions/corrections to minutes for 9/16/08 - Nerat asked that the minutes be corrected to include: Discuss Winter Operations From the Menominee Shop ~~After a discussion among the commissioners, there was~~ After a lengthy discussion as to whether to close the Menominee shop, several factors were pointed out. The drop in state revenue, the shop operating with only 7 employees plus a foreman, and the fact that in May the employees had already relocated to the Stephenson District. In order to avoid a possible layoff, a motion was made by Nerat, seconded by Anderson to close the Menominee shop and have the Menominee employees work out of the Stephenson shop with some of the plowing routes being reversed. Carried unanimously.  
A motion to approve the Minutes as corrected was made by Nerat, seconded by Anderson. Carried unanimously.

Additions/corrections to the minutes of 09/24: There being no additions or corrections, Betzinger declared that the minutes will stand as recorded.

Financial report -

Bal. September 11, 2008	\$1,832,823.47
Receipts thru 09/30/08	157,013.14
Expenditures thru 09/30/08	<u>452,245.25</u>
Bal. September 30, 2008	\$1,537,591.36
Michigan Transportation Funds	271,433.80
Receipts thru 10/14/08	289,111.86
Expenditures thru 10/14/08	843,973.47
State Maint. & Equip. Advances	<u>96,778.00</u>
Bal. October 14, 2008	\$1,157,385.55

Payables & Reserves

Payroll 10/16 & 10/30 (Est.)	170,000.00
Soc. Sec. 10/16 & 10/30 (Est.)	13,005.00
Reserve for Wk. Comp. ins.	50,400.00
Reserve for liability ins.	83,760.00
Reserve for new rental grader lease	114,880.00
Reserve 4% set-aside for township allocations (2004/2005)	35,391.55
Reserve 4% set-aside for township allocations (2005/2006)	79,226.80
Reserve 4% set-aside for township allocations (2006/2007)	124,757.46
Reserve CR 551 paving (South of CR 374)	2,016.95
Reserve Hannahville 2% Funds – Wilson Creek Bridge	50,000.00
Reserve Federal Aid Buy-Out (CR 338 Project)	292,870.08
Reserve for Driveway Deposits	2,312.40
Reserve for Forest Funds	0.00
Reserve for equipment	<u>19,814.00</u> (1,038,434.24)
	\$ 118,951.31

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

Vouchers # 08-930, 08-0077, 08-0078, 08-0079, 08-0081, and 08-0082

Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat, that the vouchers be approved and ordered paid. Carried unanimously.

Discuss Hannahville Indian community's Correspondence dated 9/22/08 requesting a speed zone study - Moilanen stated that currently there is a 25MPH speed limit when traveling north on Hannahville Road near the administrative building and a 40 MPH speed limit when traveling south in the same area. The Hannahville Indian community would like a speed zone study done to determine the most appropriate speed limit. Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat to have Moilanen contact the State Police to request the study. Carried unanimously.

Act on MERS Benefit Program E - Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat, to decline participation. Carried unanimously.

Permission to Attend the UP Clerk's Association Meeting - Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat, to send Lisa Savord and Carla O'Neil to the meeting on October 21. Carried unanimously.

Discuss Menominee County Road Commission Mail Box Policy – Moilanen discussed some of the policies already in place by other counties, such as paying a flat fee per damaged mail box or having road commission personnel install a new mail box. Moilanen then presented a draft of a proposed policy. Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat, to adopt the following policy as drafted. Carried unanimously.

#### Menominee County Road Commission Mailbox Repair Policy

This mailbox repair policy supersedes all previous mailbox policies.

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners authorizes the repair of mailbox damage caused by the Road Commission's winter operations. This policy would apply to damage caused by either direct contact with Road Commission equipment or plowed snow from Road Commission equipment. Consequently, this policy identifies the terms and conditions associated with the Menominee County Road Commission's reimbursement and/or replacement of a damaged mailbox.

The following mailbox policy applies only to those mailboxes located on the county road system and does not apply to those mailboxes located on State Highways [US-41, M-35, US-2 and M-69].

The Menominee County Road Commission reserves the right to inspect any mailbox damage complaint prior to any replacement and/or reimbursement to the property owner.

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners will either reimburse a property owner a flat fee of \$25.00 for a damaged mailbox or replace the mailbox. A damaged mailbox is defined as any damage to the existing mailbox and/or post which prohibit regular mail delivery as a result of the Road Commission winter operations. If the property owner decides to have the Road Commission replace the damaged mailbox and/or post, the Road Commission will only replace with a standard gray or black mailbox with a 4" x 4" wooden post.

Discuss Possible Changes in Winter Operations – Overtime Snow Plowing – After a discussion of the options for weekend plowing, such as continuing as is with the foreman deciding when full plowing is needed or changing to a reduced schedule where only major collectors are plowed it was moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat, that we continue with the foremen deciding when full plowing is required at this time, with the Engineer-Manager and Clerk-Office Manager monitoring the overtime expense throughout the winter. Carried unanimously.

Discuss supervisory personnel negotiations It was decided to call a special meeting for discussions with the supervisory group in the next week.

Approval of contract with MDOT Local Audit & Finance Division for audit of FY 07/08 – Moved by Anderson, seconded by Betzinger to approve signing the contract. Carried unanimously.

Other Business - Moilanen presented a letter received from Roger Grinsteiner, MI DNR, requesting permission to temporarily install a gate on E3 to close off access to a gravel pit for approximately one year, where they have had problems with theft in the past. Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat, to deny the request based on legal issues with gating off access to a county road. Carried unanimously.

Moilanen presented a Bridge Design cost comparison for the 3 bridges in Daggett Township and recommended that the board accept the low proposal from STS for \$68,603.00 for the design of all 3 bridges. Moved by Anderson, seconded by Nerat to accept the proposal from STS. Carried unanimously.

Moilanen asked if the board wanted to provide the Snow Plow Safety program to elementary students in the county. Moved by Nerat, seconded by Anderson to present the program. Carried unanimously.

Nerat asked if the signs have been put back up on Twin Creek Road – Moilanen will check with engineering.

Nerat stated that the decals had not been removed from the vehicles that were sold in the surplus equipment sale. Moilanen will have an employee go out and remove them.

Betzinger requested that information be published regarding the change in the plowing routes now that the Menominee shop is closed. Moilanen will compose this.

Nerat stated that at a recent meeting with the mechanics it was decided to have 2 mechanics at the Powers shop and 2 mechanics at the Stephenson shop. Nerat asked that the minutes of past meetings be researched to determine if a motion was made at a prior meeting to move all mechanics to the Stephenson shop. Savord will review the minutes and report the findings back to the commissioners.

Nerat asked if Moilanen had met with Supervisor Goffin from Menominee Township about pulverizing Co Rd 338. Moilanen stated that they were discussing this and several other items which will be wrapped up by Nov 1.

Public comments - Joe Skrobiak asked if the road commission used reflectors in the roadway. Moilanen stated that R-1 Drive and River Road already have some installed and that it was being looked into whether they were also needed on Miscauno Island road and Rose Bush causeway. Tom Kmiecik asked that if just the post was damaged on a resident's mail box, would they still receive the full \$25. Moilanen stated that a foreman would investigate the request and determine the extent of the damage.

Mike Zemba asked if Zemba Lane will be completed this fall. Moilanen stated it would. Zemba then asked if the road commission had taken down the "Welcome to Holmes Township" sign on G-18 when they put up the road restriction signs in the spring and forgot to put them back as they are missing. Moilanen will have the sign truck checked for these signs.

Zemba then inquired if the Snow Road would be repaired soon. Moilanen stated that there weren't funds available at this time, but they could try to submit it as a special project in the future, if possible.

Zemba also stated that an arrow is needed on the sharp curve on Cheese Factory road on the corner of Ziel.

Darlene Nerat asked for further explanation of some of the projects in Menominee Twp. Judy Nerat and Moilanen provided the information.

There being no further business, Betzinger declared the meeting adjourned. 7:20 p.m.