

Board of Road Commissioners Meeting
Board Room
May 22, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Oceana County Board of Road Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Myers in the Board Room at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Members present: Myers, Gowell, Forbes, Carr, Blohm. Absent: None.

Staff present: Timmer, Griffin, Merten.

Visitors: John Hendrixon, Shelby Township Supervisor; Dale Stevenson, Weare Township Supervisor; Walt Brimmer, Otto Township Supervisor; Bill Wagner, Grant Township Clerk; Andrew Sebolt, County Commissioner Liaison; Dean Gustafson, County Commissioner; Margo Haynes, and her husband Bruce Froelich, interested in Flower Road in Claybanks Township; Richard Raffaelli, Shelby Township landowner; Lori Green, Weare Township resident; and Ron Steiner, Nicholas Kassanos, Judith Dimichele, Peter & AnnaMae Bush, Chris Conroy, George Kazemier, Tom Davis, Chris Brown, Jeff and Paul Hodges, Amy LaBarge, Ron Beeber, Gay Lynn Liebertz, Paula Ellis, Don Davidson, Phil Boadt, Dave Peterson, Ben Gabbard, Peter Zangara, Robert Boyd, Katie Spetoskey, Frank Arvai, Julie Burdick, Jane Paine, Doug & Julie Newon, Kevin Henley, and others that did not sign in. **TOTAL: 38+ visitors.**

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

Several citizens spoke on the condition of Longbridge Road and the inconvenience caused by it being closed to traffic since May 1, 2019 when high water jeopardized the integrity of the road. The road surface itself has deteriorated since then. Others spoke on the fact that emergency services were not as readily available due to the road being closed. Still others addressed their concern for the businesses that will be adversely affected by loss of revenue due to the road closure. Several in the audience asked to be better informed on our decision making regarding the "fix" for Longbridge Road. Ron Steiner, Pentwater resident and former Oceana County EDC Director, suggested that the USDA Rural Development office in Grand Rapids be contacted for possible assistance and/or suggestions to help get Longbridge Road open to traffic. Mark Timmer addressed the group after everyone had spoken. He said that the Monday we closed the road, the Pentwater Fire Chief formulated a plan and stationed a rescue vehicle on the South side of the bridge where volunteer firemen live so they would have prompt emergency response. Hart Fire Department was contacted and made the primary responder for structure fires on the South side of the bridge. In the event the Pentwater Fire Department was responding to the South side of the bridge, Mason County would be responding on the North side. Mark added that significant cracking of the asphalt pavement has occurred along the edge of each lane and settlement of the pavement has taken place at several locations and our engineer recommended that the road remain closed to regular vehicular traffic until the water level recedes to a point where the pavement surface is visibly dry across the entire road. A survey has been done to give the engineer elevations; he is working on getting a permanent fix. Mark added that he will issue a Press Release when any relevant information is received.

Lori Green, Weare Township resident, was unhappy with the FOIA requests she had recently submitted regarding the propane business located near her residence at Monroe Road and Oceana Drive.

At 10:15 AM, Chairman Myers opened the Public Hearing regarding the request by Richard Raffaelli and Laverne Spotts to abandon 96th Avenue, South of Buchanan Road, in Shelby Township (0.25 miles).

Richard Raffaelli, Petitioner, stated that the reason for the abandonment request is specifically to upgrade the road and pave it so he and Mr. Spotts can better maintain access to their homes. He added that the road/trail to Moody Lake was made by himself and his neighbor and that access to the little lake can only be obtained by crossing his private property.

Board members had concerns that the road did access Moody Lake and that alone would not allow them to vote in favor of abandonment. Mark Timmer added that this “unimproved right-of-way” two-track shows no public access to Moody Lake and that the Road Commission has no plans to improve this road and that it would be inconvenient to maintain; he recommended to the Board that the road be abandoned.

Mr. Raffaelli responded that the people living South of Moody Lake have nothing to do with his land and that anyone venturing down the two-track road would have to trespass on his property for lake access.

Chairman Myers closed the Public Hearing at 10:31 AM.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 – SHELBY TOWNSHIP ROAD ABANDONMENT – 96th AVENUE,
SOUTH OF BUCHANAN ROAD, SECTIONS 10/11**

Motion by Forbes and supported by Carr to abandon 96th Avenue, South of Buchanan Road, in Sections 10/11 of Shelby Township, for a distance of ~0.25 miles.

Roll call vote: Forbes – yes; Carr – yes; Gowell – no; Blohm - no; Myers – no.

Motion failed.

Chairman Myers asked the audience if they had more comments on Longbridge Road. There were a few, but they were generally reiterating what had already been said.

Motion by Forbes and supported by Gowell to approve the following Agenda items for discussion.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – 10:15 AM – Shelby Township Road Abandonment (96th Avenue);
2. Discuss storage building bids.

Roll call vote: Forbes – yes; Gowell – yes; Blohm – yes; Carr – yes; Myers – yes.

Motion carried.

Motion by Forbes and supported by Blohm to approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Roll call vote: Forbes – yes; Blohm – yes; Gowell – yes; Carr – yes; Myers – yes.

Motion carried.

The Revenues & Expenditures Report and Cash Flow Statement were given to the Board members to review.

Motion by Carr and supported by Gowell to approve the following Vouchers as presented.

Voucher No. 72085 (Accounts Payable)	\$132,305.36
Voucher No. 72086 (Payroll)	<u>\$ 64,964.52</u>
	\$197,269.88

Roll call vote: Carr – yes; Gowell – yes; Forbes – yes; Blohm – yes; Myers – yes.

Motion carried.

On April 23, 2019 bids were opened and read aloud for a 72' X 172' pole building to be built in Hart, South of the main Road Commission building. Eight (8) bids were received with Tru-Line Construction being the low bidder. At the May 8, 2019 Board Meeting, the Buildings & Grounds Committee (Commissioners Gowell and Blohm) along with Shop Foreman Denis Koch went to look at some of the buildings Tru-Line has constructed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – AWARD POLE BUILDING BID

Motion by Gowell and supported by Blohm to accept the bid of \$248,900.00 from Tru-Line Construction of Holton, Michigan, for construction of a 72' X 172' pole building at the Hart Road Commission facility.

Roll call vote: Gowell – yes; Blohm – yes; Forbes – yes; Carr – yes; Myers – yes.

Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Mark Timmer reported that our crews are grading gravel roads, patching with hot boxes, pulling berm, and getting roads and driveways restored after paving done this month. The Traffic Services crew staked roads for paving, continued work on a Safety Grant for curve signing, worked on the county-wide local road bridge/culvert inventory, and are putting together a 5-year road plan.

The following roads are under construction; this list will be updated as further project work begins.

Oceana Drive (Lever Road to 1,000' beyond Monroe Road)	~2.70 miles
Base coat of asphalt being applied today	
Baker Road (Shelby Township – 80 th Avenue to 88 th Avenue)	1.00 miles
Paved; minor work to complete	
Deer Road (Golden Township from 34 th Avenue to 48 th Avenue)	~1.70 miles
Paved; minor work to complete	
192 nd Avenue (Colfax Township, Madison to the South)	~0.35 miles
Wedged in preparation for chip seal/fog seal	
Woodrow Road (Benona Township – West of Scenic Drive)	~0.75 miles
Paved; minor work to complete	
48 th Avenue (Claybanks Township – Skeels Road to Webster Road)	<u>1.50 miles</u>
Hallack's preparing it for paving	~8.00 miles

Washington Road, between 80th Avenue and 88th Avenue in Weare Township, is still closed to traffic until the replacement culvert size is determined. Mark and Commissioners Myers and Carr attended the Paul Bunyan Meeting on May 16, 2019. The durapatching equipment is being cleaned up and tested so roads can be worked on before chip sealing. Our new semi tractors and brine tankers are being outfitted for brining; we are also leasing tankers and frac tanks from our brine vendors for this year's new brine venture. We are planning to chip seal/fog seal approximately 43 miles of roads throughout the County this year, using our own manpower and equipment.

Commissioner Forbes commented that she was very pleased with the work being done throughout the County. She also is very appreciative of the tireless efforts Mark puts forth with the many projects and issues he is having to deal with on a daily basis.

Chairman Myers commented that he was very pleased with the friendliness and courtesy shown by the Pentwater Township residents in attendance inquiring about Longbridge Road.

Chairman Myers asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA K. GRIFFIN
Clerk

WILLIAM MYERS
Chairman

JUNE 12, 2019
