

Board of Road Commissioners Meeting  
Board Room  
July 24, 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, July 24, 2019.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

Staff present: Timmer, Griffin, Holmes, Merten.

Visitors: John Hendrixon, Shelby Township Supervisor; Walt Brimmer, Otto Township Supervisor; Sheriff Craig Mast; Andrew Sebolt, County Commissioner Liaison; Richard Raffaelli, COO Peterson Farms; Roy Wilson, Lt. Point Sable resident; Duane & Georgia Dennison, and Tim Bosse, Hart Township residents; Amy LaBarge and Julie Burdick, Pentwater Township residents. **TOTAL: 11 visitors.**

### **CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION**

John Hendrixon, Shelby Township Supervisor, commented on the detour for the Shelby Road Bridge Replacement Project in Benona Township and also asked for pothole patching on 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, which is part of the detour route for the bridge project.

Amy LaBarge, Pentwater Township resident, thanked the Board for the pavement marking that was done on the Longbridge Road detour route (Wayne Road/68<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Harrison Road/72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue). She commented that the Longbridge Road closure directly impacts 50% of the Pentwater Township residents and 10% of the Pentwater Village residents. Sheriff Mast informed those in attendance that he is kept updated on the Longbridge Road situation by Mark Timmer so that he is able to answer questions from the public.

Duane & Georgia Dennison and Tim Bosse, Hart Township residents, expressed their displeasure with the condition of Water Road, between Polk Road and Taylor Road, in Hart Township. Mark explained that the engineers had done soil borings and have just recently shared the report with him; he plans to meet with Hart Township and the Sheriff to discuss possible solutions for making major improvement to Water Road.

Richard Raffaelli, COO of Peterson Farms, read aloud a two page letter he had given to the Board that specifically mentioned incidents where he had been displeased with the actions of Commissioner Blohm. Specifically, a Peterson Farms housing project at 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Baseline Road, the recent abandonment of a portion of 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue (South of Buchanan Road in Shelby Township) at Mr. Raffaelli's residence, and Mr. Blohm's vote against the Road Commissioners Code of Conduct that was adopted at the May 23, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Raffaelli asked that this letter be placed on record. Chairman Myers said that the Personnel Committee will review this situation after today's meeting and will respond by letter.

Sheriff Mast presented a detailed handout to the Board and Ms. LaBarge showing the speed study results that were done on Longbridge Road, and on 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between Jackson Road and VanBuren Road. He stated that even though traffic was heavy, the results showed the motorists were driving at or below the speed limit. He also commented that the county-wide mowing and the pavement marking look fantastic. The Board thanked Sheriff Mast for his factual results and also for getting back to them so quickly with this information.

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

**There were no Agenda items.**

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

Motion by Gowell and supported by Forbes to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Roll call vote: Gowell – yes; Forbes – yes; Blohm – 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 Blohm to approve the following Vouchers as presented.

Voucher No. 72095 (Accounts Payable)	\$325,186.09
Voucher No. 72096 (Payroll)	<u>\$ 92,781.33</u>
	\$417,967.42

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

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mark informed the Board and audience that our crew durapatched on 176<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Colfax Township in preparation for chip sealing. The chip seal crew is moving right along with this year's county-wide chip seal program and have started fog sealing. Mark is very pleased with their work and commented that there is very little stone waste on our first "chip seal venture" in Road Commission history; our forces have mastered all the new chip seal equipment and have become a "fine-tuned" operation. The men mowing were busy on M-20 and in Otto, Grant, Shelby, and Greenwood Townships. The summer help employees are steadily working on pothole patching. The brining crew finished with the first brining last week. Traffic Services employees are inspecting grading and paving projects, working on a 5-year road plan, and taking care of sign repairs/replacements/upgrades.

Considerable wedging was done on Buchanan Road, West of 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue as this road has been designated the "detour route" for the Shelby Road Bridge Replacement Project. Wedging was also done on Arthur Road at Carlton Creek to alleviate the bridge approach issue, and also on 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North of Harrison (Longbridge detour route). The DEQ approved a 17' single span aluminum pipe arch structure for Washington Road (between 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue) to replace the two (2) 6' diameter failed culverts.

This is a much more palatable option than what the DEQ originally favored (a concrete box culvert that would've cost the Road Commission over \$250,000.00).

Mark attended the MCRCSIP/CRASIF safety training conference in Mt. Pleasant on July 17-18, 2019. He specifically mentioned a conversation he had with Attorney Bill Henn, JD attorney at Henn Lesperance, PLC, after the meeting. Mark shared with Mr. Henn the situation the Road Commission is currently experiencing on Longbridge Road. Mr. Henn said the Road Commission has a "statutory duty to protect the public when a road is flooded and when a road is under water, the proper protocol is to immediately close the road to limit liability exposure and to stay focused on the Road Commission's mission, which is to repair and maintain roads." He also advised not to undertake any obligations that are beyond the scope, such as solving larger drainage issues. Mark added that "we have done everything in our power to maintain this road and keep the public safe; the biggest obstacle is the funding."

We have received the signed MDOT salt shed contract and are putting together bid documents for the building, concrete, excavating, asphalt, electrical, and brine tank and pump. This new structure will include a brine storage tank, pump, and containment area. MDOT is paying 100% of the cost for the new building.

The Shelby Road Bridge Replacement Project began this Monday, July 22, 2019. The project was awarded to Hardman Construction out of Ludington; their bid price was \$1,397,880.04.

Chairman Myers asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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**SANDRA K. GRIFFIN**  
Clerk

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**WILLIAM MYERS**  
Chairman

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**AUGUST 14, 2019**

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