

MEETING MINUTES**Mason County Road Commission
September 28, 2023****A. Call to Order**

Chairman Ingison called the September 28, 2023 meeting of the Mason County Road Commission held at the Mason County Road Commission at 510 E. State St., Scottville, MI to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Chairman Ingison, Vice-Chair Conklin, Member Del Zoppo, Manager/Director Samuels, Secretary/Finance Director Braginton, County Highway Engineer Nelson, Superintendent Loeser, Shop Supervisor Keating

Members Absent: None

Visitors: Jim Gallie – Amber Twp., Terry Carter

1. Pledge of Allegiance**B. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Conklin to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Del Zoppo. Roll Call Vote: Ingison - Aye, Conklin - Aye, Del Zoppo - Aye. Motion carried.

1. Conflicts of Interest

None.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 12, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Conklin to approve the minutes as presented. Supported by Del Zoppo. Roll Call Vote: Ingison - Aye, Conklin - Aye, Del Zoppo - Aye. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Accounts Payable & Payroll

The Board took the following action after reviewing the Accounts Payable and Payroll:

Motion made by Conklin to approve Accounts Payable vouchers for October 3, 2023 in the amount of \$493,559.03 and Approve Payroll #20 for September 28, 2023. Seconded by Del Zoppo. Roll Call Vote: Ingison - Aye, Conklin - Aye, Del Zoppo - Aye. Motion carried.

E. Review of Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the Cash Balance Report, Accounts Receivable Summary, Debt Summary, and MTF Report.

F. Reports from Other Agencies

Gallie/Amber -

1. Has received two calls complementing the nice sealcoat job that was done.
2. Lou Squires asked whether we are paving wider lanes on Gordon Rd next year.
3. Inquired about placing a hidden driveway sign on Conrad Rd.

G. Fleet & Facilities Report

Winter preparedness

Snow blade stock is sufficient to get us well into January. Suppliers have assured us there are no supply chain issues to readily attain them. So will place another order around the first of December so billing will hit in 2024. About 30 days from time of order to receiving.

I touched base last week with superintendent and road foremen when they will start turning trucks over to us for dump box to salt box swaps and they said middle of October. I will report on this later when it gets rolling.

As the mechanics have time, I have them randomly take trucks and inspect them for issues such as brakes, fuel, hydraulic, coolant, leaks, tire inspection ECT.

Truck #609 & stainless-steel auction box

Project complete. SS box cost \$3,000 verses \$35,000 for new ss box. Materials cost for completed project approximately \$5,800. Total \$8,800.

Truck #44 & stainless-steel auction box

This swap is in progress and will be similar cost as #609.

Estimated completion date mid-October.

2020 Cat Excavator #787

The gearbox for #787 was replaced and repaired on 9/21. The Excavator is back in service.

H. Superintendent Report**1. Safety**

The weekly Toolbox Talks included a discussion on signage and traffic control during projects and the procedure for Lockout/Tagout.

There were no safety incidents in the last two weeks.

2. Maintenance

Blading Roads throughout the county as needed. The gravel roads are in very good shape currently.

Brining season has come to a close and all the township contracts have been completed.

Continue ditching areas with drainage issues throughout the county. In the last two weeks the crews were in Logan, Eden, Riverton, PM, Custer, and Sherman.

Cold Patching is an ongoing process. Crews have been out almost every day in various townships and on US-10.

Mowing/Brush Cutting is still going on both the Primary Roads and the Local Roads. Starting on fall brush cutting in preparation for snow plowing.

3. Township Projects:

Hamlin Township- Grave Avenue 100% complete. Installed a leaching basin, culvert and riprap followed by paving. This job was due to a drainage issue caused by the way the road was built previously.

Grant Township-Lasalle Road-Mill Joints to smooth out the expansion upheaval. In progress.

PM Township-Lakeshore Drive 100% complete. This was an HMA crush and shape, undercut, bank stabilization, aggregate base and HMA Paving.

Custer Township-Conrad/Wilson wedging, overlay and restoration. 100% complete.

Sheridan Township- Echo Lane-Placing millings to eliminate washouts. In progress.

4. Primary Road Work

Continue mowing edges along the roads and brush cutting to widen various roads due to overgrowth.

5. Forest Service

Placed Gravel on Morton Road-W. Forest Trail to Cooper Creek 100% complete and placed Gravel on Morse Road-Woods Trail to Washington 100%. Complete. These projects were partially funded through the Forest Service.

6. MDOT

We will start milling joints on US-10 October 2nd when MDOT begins their new fiscal year from 10-1-23 to 9-30-24. This process will take about two weeks.

7. Pit Work

We have been screening stone at the Deren Pit- There is a slight delay for a couple of weeks while repairs are being made to the screen plant. In the meantime, overburden is being removed.

I. County Highway Engineer Report

Survey Department – Charley is working a couple of hours daily on permits. Charley is working on miscellaneous MCRC & Township Projects as needed.

2021 Rasmussen Road Project – The 10-inch sanitary sewer line was repaired last week. Josh & I have been working on the MDOT needs list and final paperwork and payments for this project. Hallack Contracting was the prime contractor. The project Engineer's Estimate was \$1,047,504. The as bid amount by Hallack Contracting was \$997,760.10. The anticipated final cost is approximately \$999,476.50.

2023 Jebavy Drive – US-10 to Bryant Road – I am working on final paperwork and closing out this project. The MDOT TED Category F Grant of \$375,000 was based on an estimated cost of \$650,000. The final cost of the project is \$638,702.51. MDOT \$370,477.46 and the MCRC \$268,225.05 plus the cost of materials testing.

2022 Hansen Road Project – The final payment of \$10,480 will be made after Hallack Contracting agrees with the final quantities. Josh & I have reviewed the

discrepancies sent to us in mid-June by Amber from Hallack Contracting. I have sent Amber the revised quantities for approval.

2023 Hansen Road Project – Josh & I are working on the final quantities with the Contractor & MDOT documentation. The anticipated final amount of the project is about \$900,000. Maximum MDOT funding is \$560,000 with the anticipated balance of \$340,000 +/- by the MCRC.

2023 Fisher Road Bridge – The project started on May 15th, 2023. The Project was completed and opened to traffic on Friday September 22, 2023. Prein & Newhof is working on the final paperwork on this project.

2026 Jebavy Drive – US-10 South to PM Highway – The easement between Market Development and Consumers Energy has been completed. Consumers Energy will need to install a new Power Pole so Buist Electric can run the new electric line. Our attorney is working with Oxy Chemical on the language for final approval. I will also continue to work on the remaining paperwork that is required so S. Jebavy will qualify for MDOT Category F & Small Urban funding. It is anticipated to rebuild S. Jebavy and the access road to PM Highway in 2026.

2023 HMA Resurfacing Program – Rieth-Riley has completed all the 2023 HMA Paving Projects. There were 8,323 estimated tons of HMA for the resurfacing program this year. There was a total of 8,361.31 tons of HMA completed.

2023 PM Township – Orchard View Drainage Problem – I met with 3 of the PM Township Board members onsite this week to discuss the drainage issues causing flooding in Mr. & Mrs. Greene's property. I had submitted the anticipated cost to solve the problem to Supervisor Jerry Bleau in early August of \$7,350. The PM Board denied the project at the 8-22-2023 meeting. The Board agreed that the proposed solution was the best solution for solving the problem and cost. PM Township will discuss the project internally and get back to the MCRC.

Sugar Grove Road & Custer Road Intersection – Rumble Strips have been installed on the west leg of Sugar Grove Road. The cost of the Rumble strips was \$2,193.

2024 Iris Road – PM Highway to S. Lakeshore – MCRC sold our 2022 RTF funds, \$717,742.00 to Oakland County at 80% for a total of \$574,194.00. Iris Road will be a HMA crush & shape, new guardrail, HMA paving and related misc. work. The estimated cost of Construction is about \$850,000. The MCRC's portion would be about \$275,000. This work will be bid through the MCRC in February or March 2024.

2024 Primary Roads – Chip Seal Program – MCRC sold our 2023 RTF Funding, \$623,800 to Oakland County at 80% for a total of \$499,040. By doing this, the

MCRC can bid the work through the MCRC and avoid the 6-to-8-month delays bidding through MDOT. The Contractor does not have to pay prevailing wages, the amount of paperwork and time is greatly reduced. It has been estimated by several agencies that the cost savings are about 20% by not bidding through MDOT. This funding must be used on our Primary roads within 2 years of the agreement, 2025.

2026 & 2030 – Detour Route for US-31 – Heather & I met with Marc Fredrickson & Matt Block about the upcoming US-31 projects. US-31 from Hoague to Freeman/Townline is anticipated for 2026. US-31 from Townline to Sugar Grove will be 2030+. We are discussing using Hoague, Quarterline, Townline Roads as a detour for the 2026 Project. Townline, Quarterline, Stiles, Sugar Grove for the detour for the 2030 US-31 Project. MDOT will look at the cost & time savings of a detour versus part width construction. If MDOT is willing to cost share for improvements to the detour route, I would be in favor of this idea. There will be future cost estimates and further discussions in the near future.

J. Managing Director Report

I have submitted five grant requests for the Marquette Rail for a new surface rebuild on Marshall, Stephine's, Townline, Tuttle and Landon crossings. This will be for 2024.

The next Mason County Planning Commission Board meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2023, at the Mason County Airport. We are interested in adding Wireless Communication Towers to districts within the county and will be requesting to have our property on Taylor Road re-zoned to allow communication towers.

Verizon has almost completed updating all the hardware for the GPS tracking on our equipment and trucks. Once this is complete, we will be able to use the maintenance portion of the software and track everything.

WSCC representative W Wells has asked if they move forward with putting the 10-acre driver training pad on our property (and wait on the 10-acre skid pad until they find funding), would there be any benefit for our organization to partner with them through use of our equipment and/or labor, snow removal, etc. in exchange for use of the pad and/or CDL training?

I have received the Narrative from GFA Engineering to submit with the grant request for the reconstruction and addition of a bike path on S Lakeshore Drive from Iris Road to the County line for 7.964 miles. I have also received several letters of support that I will be including with the submission. Poser ratings on this road are 1's and 2's. The grant request has been submitted.

Still no new information from the DNR regarding roadkill.

The next Mason County Township Officers Assoc. Meeting is scheduled for October 19, 6:00 pm at the Branch Townhall, 6688 E 1st Street, Walhalla.

K. Unfinished Business

1. Facility Planning

The next phase required by the USDA-RD has been submitted to include a Certificate of Compliance, Commercial Credit Certification, Verification of all Non-USDA debt and a current balance sheet. Waiting for a letter of support from the West Michigan Shoreline Economic Development District. Their new plan will not be available until the first of November.

L. New Business

M. Public Comment

N. Correspondence

O. Commissioners Privilege

Ingison - Start strategic planning sessions again on October 26th.

P. Next Meeting: Thursday October 12, 2023 @ 10:00 am

Q. Adjournment

Motion by Conklin to close meeting. Seconded by Del Zoppo. Ayes all. Motion carried. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.


Heather Braginton - Secretary


Michael Ingison - Chairman