

January 3, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of St. Clair was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 7:12 pm in the St. Clair County Road Commission's Central Service Center, 21 Airport Drive, St. Clair, Michigan.

Present: Commissioner William Blumerich, Commissioner Timothy LaLonde, Commissioner Kenneth Foerster, Managing Director Kirk Weston, Secretary Greg Owens, Deputy Secretary Sandra Clark

Citizens: David Rushing, County Commissioner; William Deater, Grant Twp Supervisor; Dick Burch, Grant Twp; Kristen O'Reilly, Health Department; Terry London, County Commissioner; Tom DeMerritt, Jeddo; Ron Ruzinsky, Jeddo

On a motion by Commissioner LaLonde seconded by Commissioner Foerster the Public Hearing regarding removal of trees of Metcalf Road was opened at 7:12 pm. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Ron Ruzinsky had questions on the extent, scope and type of work to be performed. He also complimented the Road Commission on the Wadhams Road Bridge project. Mr. Dick Burch noted many of the trees to be removed are ash trees. He reviewed drainage problems in the area and expressed the desire that ditching proceed. Mr. Tom DeMerritt had inquiries on the length of the project, on the township's cost share, the affect on his property, and the stages of the project. Supervisor Bill Deater reviewed drainage problems in the area, reported on talks held with residents, and stressed the importance of removing dead ash trees. Discussion was held on removal of the wood after tree cutting operations. On a motion by Commissioner LaLonde seconded by Commissioner Foerster the Public Hearing was closed at 7:32 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Blumerich welcomed County Commissioners David Rushing and Terry London. Commissioner London reported that the County Board will hold their meetings on Thursdays starting January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes: Commissioner Blumerich stated if there were no corrections or additions to be made to the minutes of the regular meeting of December 20, 2011 the minutes would stand as presented. No corrections or additions, the minutes approved as submitted.

Citizens wishing to address the Board:

Kristen O'Reilly, Storm Water Coordinator, provided the Board with a report, as required under the storm water permit. She reviewed the program, noting that the permit was enacted in 2003. Ms. O'Reilly explained the functions of the storm water program and how it is now being performed with the ending of some grants. She reported on a grant obtained for the Belle River. She also complimented Deborah Pauly of the Road Commission for her efforts with the storm water program. Ms. O'Reilly ended by taking questions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

It was moved by Commissioner Blumerich seconded by Commissioner Foerster that Timothy LaLonde be nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, it was moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Timothy LaLonde as Chairman. Motion carried 3-0.

It was moved by Chairman LaLonde seconded by Commissioner Foerster that William Blumerich be nominated for Vice-Chairman. There being no further nominations, it was moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for William Blumerich as Vice-Chairman. Motion carried 3-0.

Approved  
1/17/12  
SFC

Chairman LaLonde took over as chair of the meeting.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Chairman LaLonde made the following appointments:

- Retirement Board of Trustees – William Blumerich
- Parks & Recreation Commission – Timothy LaLonde with Kenneth Foerster as alternate.

VOUCHERS:

		Motion		
		<u>To Approve</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Action</u>
#24247	\$105,453.63	Foerster	Blumerich	Carried 3-0
#24248	\$102,171.12	Foerster	Blumerich	Carried 3-0
#24249	\$212,661.51	Foerster	Blumerich	Carried 3-0

RELEASES:

On a motion by Commissioner Blumerich seconded by Commissioner Foerster the release of a \$10,000 Surety Bond for DiPonio Contracting be approved. Motion carried 3-0. (See exhibit at close of minutes.)

CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET – WING PLOW PURCHASE:

It was moved by Commissioner Blumerich seconded by Commissioner Foerster to approve the purchase of a wing plow with the para-glide mechanism from Truck & Trailer Specialties at a total cost of \$13,451.00. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD MILLAGE BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The following ballot language was presented to the Board: *For the purpose of raising funds to be used to improve and maintain roads, streets and highways within St. Clair County and for use as matching funds necessary to obtain State and Federal highway improvement aid for use in St. Clair County, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of St. Clair, Michigan, be increased one-quarter (0.25) mill (\$0.25 per thousand dollars of state taxable valuation) for a period of four (4) years?* County Commissioner Rushing inquired how the proposal could impact road millages currently held by townships. He also requested a forecast of the proposed work. County Commissioner London requested talking points be provided. Discussion was held on the next steps to be taken, and input from the Board was requested in the formation of a committee. On a motion by Commissioner Foerster seconded by Commissioner Blumerich the proposed ballot language for a road millage be approved as submitted, and forwarded to the County Board of Commissioners for their approval. Motion carried 3-0.

TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY, PALMS ROAD:

Director Weston reported that, due to the increased amount of work from the Smiths Creek Road project, the Engineering Department has requested the topographic survey for Palms Road be bid out. Commissioner Blumerich noted his concerns regarding the importance of keeping this work in-house. It was moved by Commissioner Foerster seconded by Commissioner Blumerich, based upon recommendation of staff and the unanticipated increase in the survey crew's workload, to award the topographic survey of Palms Road to Project Control Engineering for their low bid of \$6,825.00. Motion carried 2-1: Ayes, LaLonde and Foerster; Nay, Blumerich. (See exhibit at close of minutes.)

COTTRELLVILLE TWP REQUEST TO TRANSFER EXCESS DRAIN FUNDS:

It was moved by Commissioner Blumerich seconded by Commissioner Foerster that Cottrellville Township's request to transfer excess drain funds to the Match Money Program be approved. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS:

The Board received the Monthly Cash Flow report.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Director Weston had the following:

- Noted that Jim Warner's retirement party is scheduled for Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Road Commission.
- Reported on issues with an excavator.
- Noted staff is still pricing loader tires.

Mr. Owens presented the MTF report.

Commissioner Foerster had the following:

- Requested information on the salaries approved for the county elected/appointed officials and CANUE members.
- Requested an update on costs for road construction and maintenance.
- Asked if budgeting had been performed to accommodate the new Retroreflectivity requirements for signs.

Commissioner Blumerich had the following:

- Inquired about the status of the winter maintenance budget.
- Noted problem areas on side roads due to the weather.

Chairman LaLonde discussed the time for the presentation of Mr. Warner's retirement resolution and gift.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Commissioner Foerster seconded by Commissioner Blumerich to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

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Timothy J. LaLonde, Chairman

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Greg A. Owens, Secretary