

Alcona County Road Commission January 13, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Alcona County was held electronically and was called to order by Chairman Theodore Somers at 4:00pm on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. Present: Chairman Ted Somers, Vice-Chairman Harry Harvey, Member Al Scully, Managing Director Jesse Campbell, Clerk Renee LaVergne, Superintendent Mike Escareno, and Board Clerk Lori Grush. Electronic guests included Craig Johnston and Drew Milwrick

AGENDA ADOPTION

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Harvey to accept the January 13, 2021 meeting agenda as presented.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Escareno reported that we are still doing tree cutting from the storm damage from the first snow, pretty much caught up on what was in the right of way. Also, been doing some tree cutting along M72 between Stout and Sanborn and we'll be starting on some tree cutting for an F30 project soon. In between tree cutting and snow and ice removal, we've had both brush tractors out. We had some in house training scheduled for yesterday but the ice detoured that so it's been rescheduled for Friday. Commissioner Scully shared that there was a letter from a citizen from Barton City in the paper thanking the road commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Harvey, Scully to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2020 meeting as amended.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes,

FINANCIAL REPORTS & OPEN ACCOUNTS

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Harvey to approve payment of open accounts from January 13, 2021 in the amount of \$220,561.51

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

CORRESPONDENCE

The letter from State of Michigan regarding annual cost limitations for medical benefits for 2021 was shared.

The invitation and agenda for CRAs annual Road Show event in March was provided.

The commissioners were informed of the East Central Council meeting on January 21st.

BUSINESS

Organization:

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Harvey that Commissioner Somers be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey – yes, Somers-abstain

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Somers that Commissioner Harvey be elected Vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Somers – yes, Harvey - abstain

Moved by Commissioner Somers, Scully that the regular Board meetings for 2021 will be as follows:

Wednesday, January 27	3:00pm
Wednesday, February 10	3:00pm
Wednesday, February 24	3:00pm
Wednesday, March 10	3:00pm
Wednesday, March 24	4:00pm
Wednesday, April 14	4:00pm
Wednesday, April 28	4:00pm
Wednesday, May 12	4:00pm
Wednesday, May 26	4:00pm
Wednesday, June 9	6:00pm
Wednesday, June 23	4:00pm
Wednesday, July 14	6:00pm
Wednesday, July 28	4:00pm
Wednesday, August 11	6:00pm
Wednesday, August 25	4:00pm
Wednesday, September 8	4:00pm
Wednesday, September 22	4:00pm
Wednesday, October 13	4:00pm
Wednesday, October 27	4:00pm
Wednesday, November 10	3:00pm
Wednesday, November 24	3:00pm
Wednesday, December 8	3:00pm
Wednesday, December 22	3:00pm

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Harvey that the depositories for the Road Commission be Huron Community Bank and Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

Moved by Commissioner Harvey, Scully that the Administrative Assistant or Account Clerk be authorized to pay payrolls when due for the ensuing year.
Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

Moved by Commissioner Harvey, Scully that for the purpose of administering the Road Commission budget in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 621 of 1978, as amended, the following provisions be adopted:

1. Jesse J. Campbell, Managing Director, is designated as Chief Administrative Officer and Renee K. LaVergne, Account Clerk, is designated as Fiscal Officer.

2. The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to transfer up to 25 percent of a line item amount approved in the Road Commission budget to another line item without prior approval, but subject to approval of the Board of County Road Commissioners at their next regular Board meeting.

3. The expenditure amounts approved in the Road Commission budget for Distributive Expense shall be allocated to the various other expenditure line items in the same proportion as the allocation of actual Distributive Expense after year end for preparation of the Act 51 report.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

Material Bids:

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Harvey to approve the advertisement for the bids for materials, all bids shall be due February 23, 2021 by 4:00pm and will be presented at the February 24, 2021 board meeting.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

Weight Restrictions:

Moved by Commissioner Harvey, Scully to authorize Alcona County Road Commission staff to impose seasonal weight and speed restrictions as conditions warrant.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

CRA Board Of Directors Ballot

Moved by Commissioner Scully, Harvey to authorize the managing director to vote for the CRA Board of Directors as he sees fit.

Roll call vote: Scully – yes, Harvey - yes, Somers – yes

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Manager Campbell shared that they are finishing up on the wash barn.

There is a check list that the contractor is going to finish up on next week and then we'll need occupancy permission. He sat in on a Thawcaster webinar thru Michigan Tech. We are looking at the repairs needed for the Salt Barn.

There is a wind shear that we have to deal with so there is a small header that needs to go up into the rafters. The F41 project for 2021 which is re-asphalting and widening from Mikado to M72 is in review thru MDOT.

There is no date set on when the bidding will take place for the letting. He also sat in on a meeting for the future US23 project for a complete reconstruct in the Black River Hills portion, hopefully in 2023.

Commissioner Harvey asked about the start date for the Harrisville US23 project. Manager Campbell stated right now it is April 1st. If the weather stays this way, they may be a couple weeks earlier. The completion date is July 1st. Chair Somers asked if there was an update on the personal property tax bill (thru John Deere Credit). Manager Campbell was waiting to hear from Hawes Township after their meeting. Discussion ensued about why they are billing us for property tax when we are exempt and provided that information at the time of purchase.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Harvey stated that he thinks that Mr. Craig Johnston should be named the Drain Commissioner/DPW. Chair Somers stated that we're not to that topic yet and asked for Mr. Johnston's response be held until the DPW meeting. Mr. Johnston did share that he has been asked by the County Board to be the liaison between the County Board of Commissioners and the Road Commission. Discussion ensued regarding his past history and understanding of the drain commission position and opportunities for the future.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Scully shared his concerns about the new wash barn and if there needs to be an alert to notify other drivers that there is already another truck inside. Discussion followed and transitioned to how to prevent future accidents, due to the boxes being in the up position. Manager Campbell agreed that we may have to start penalizing or disciplining the employee when there is an accident. Driver Milwrick offered several ideas to limit the accident risks to the salt barn. He was disappointed that no one came to the employees and asked what they would need to avoid accidents. He would like to see the warning devices put on the buildings instead of in the trucks. As far as penalizing employees for mistakes, Milwrick hopes that all employees of the road commission should be held accountable for making a mistake.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair at 5:04pm until the next regular meeting which will be held on January 27, 2021

Theodore Somers, Chairman

Lori Grush, Administrative Assistant