

Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

November 3, 2022 - Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 3rd day of November, 2022 at 5:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular session at the Road Commission Administrative Office in Lawrence, Michigan.

PRESENT:

Road Commissioners Askew, Boze, Burleson, Kinney and Nelson
Managing Director Dan Bishop
Highway Engineer Barry Anttila
Finance and Human Resources Director Linnea Rader
Administrative Assistant-Board Secretary Jill Brien

ABSENT:

None

GUESTS PRESENT:

Tim Redmon, Hill Drive, Christie Lake

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The Agenda was approved by Board consent.

Motion by Kinney to revise the proposed minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting as follows:

Commissioner Askew accused Kinney of personal harassment regarding Askew's absences from Board Meetings. As a point of information, Commissioner Kinney said facts show Askew has missed four (4) Board meetings in 2022. provided details regarding member absences. Askew feels that this information is a form of personal harassment. Chairman Nelson hopes to raise the level of civility during future meetings.

Askew explained his position and reasons for a "no" vote.

YES: 1

NO: 4

MOTION NOT CARRIED.

Motion by Nelson to revise the proposed minutes as follows:

Motion by Kinney that nominations be closed, and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Nelson as Chairman for a 14-month term including the remainder of 2022 and all of 2023. Additional discussion held regarding parliamentary law. The motion was seconded by Burleson.

AYES: 4

NAYS: 1 (Nelson)

MOTION NOT CARRIED. (Not unanimous)

Discussion and clarification provided by Nelson.

YES: 4

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1 (Kinney)

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Boze to approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2022 Regular Meeting, as amended.

YES: 4
NO: 1 (Kinney)
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to first public comment. Tim Redmon, Hill Drive, Christie Lake, spoke to attending the meeting to observe the process.

Managing Director Bishop presented Staff Reports as follows:

1. A reminder, the Southwest Council meeting is next Monday, November 7 starting at 10:00. It is at Ottawa County. We will leave here about 8:30.
2. It has been suggested that we place the "proposed" minutes on our web page within 8 days of the meeting. The Open Meetings Act states:

15.269(3)

A public body shall make proposed minutes available for public inspection within 8 business days after the meeting to which the minutes refer. . .

3. The ads for Managing Director have gone out. I'm fielding calls from potential applicants about the position.
4. A reminder, deer season opening day is November 15. Good luck.
5. Thanksgiving holiday is November 24 and 25. Our office will be closed. I will be off on November 28 for my birthday.

In addition, Bishop advised the Board that he has fielded requests to certify roads recently and spent time talking with residents and township officials. The Board discussed the possibility of developing a brochure to use as an informational handout.

A Voucher update was presented by Managing Director Bishop as follows:

Voucher #2278	\$161,128.35	Payroll
Voucher #2279	\$607,980.11	Accounts Payable

Motion by Boze to approve the Vouchers, as presented.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Bishop reviewed the proposal by The Daltons to extend 2022 brush and guardrail spraying pricing in the 2023 season. Motion by Burleson to accept The Dalton's extension of 2022 bid pricing for a similar amount of application work in the 2023 season, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Rader provided an update on the Managing Director's hiring process. Copies of the various job ads were shared with the Board. The next steps of the hiring process were discussed and reviewed by Rader and Bishop, together with the pros and cons of candidate questioning by the Board. Motion by Kinney that each Board member be allowed to ask questions of the candidates on an individual basis.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

By consent the Board agreed to the next steps in the hiring process as follows:

1. The Board will review the draft employment contract and be ready to formalize it as the "default agreement" at the next meeting, subject to further negotiations with the successful candidate.

2. An additional Candidate Screening question was added: Is candidate's current residence within 60 miles of Van Buren County?
3. Each Commissioner shall email three (3) questions they propose to ask candidates to the Board Secretary by November 18th so that they may be reviewed at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Updates and Reports:

- W.C. Askew, Sr. - No report.
- Rick Boze - Attended Keeler Township's meeting on Tuesday.
- Doug Burlison - No report.
- Greg Kinney - Attended KATS Policy meeting on 10/26.
- Wayne Nelson - Has not attended any township meetings as they have not yet occurred since his appointment. Plans to attend township meetings in November.

Rader discussed the upcoming Township Annual Meetings on December 6 at 6 PM and December 7 at 1 PM at the VBCRC Lawrence Storage-Maintenance facility and requested that Road Commissioners attending township meetings encourage attendance by all Board members.

The Chairman opened the meeting to second public comment. Tim Redmon stated he had concerns about Hill Drive on Christie Lake and how Road Commission processes work. Mr. Redmon agreed to speak with the Managing Director following the adjournment of the meeting.

Motion by Boze to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:06 PM.

YES: 5
NO: 0
MOTION CARRIED.

Board Secretary

Board Chairman