

## Van Buren County Board of Road Commissioners

June 2, 2021 - Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2021 at 5:00 PM, E.D.T., the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Van Buren met in regular session in person and via teleconference pursuant to the local state of emergency declared by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners on January 26, 2021 in an effort to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health and safety of this state and its residents, as well as the Road Commissioners and Road Commission staff.

### PRESENT:

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

### GUESTS PRESENT:

Phil Hover, Paw Paw Township Planning Commission  
Sarah Haselschwardt, Kingscott  
Steve Lucas, Kingscott  
Linda Norton, Village of Breedsville  
Ken Speicher, Columbia Township

Chairman Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Roll call:

Askew: PRESENT - Attending in person.  
Boze: PRESENT - Attending in person.  
Hackenberg: PRESENT - Attending in person.  
Kinney: PRESENT - Attending remotely from the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, MI.  
Burleson: PRESENT - Attending in person.

Chairman Burleson read the Special Rules for Remote Meeting: All participating Road Commissioners can vote by phone; all votes must be roll call with Chairman always voting last. All people should identify themselves before they speak. Any participant or listener may record the meeting.

Motion by Boze seconded by Hackenberg to approve the Agenda.

### Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE  
Boze: AYE  
Hackenberg: AYE  
Kinney: AYE  
Burleson: AYE  
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 regular meeting as presented by the Board Secretary.

### Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE  
Boze: AYE  
Hackenberg: AYE  
Kinney: AYE  
Burleson: AYE  
MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman opened the meeting to first public comment. Phil Hover, Paw Paw Township Planning Commission introduced himself. He discussed concerns regarding truck traffic on Red Arrow Highway and the township's desire to create a "no passing" zone between 39<sup>th</sup> Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Street given businesses located in that particular area, truck traffic, and other safety concerns. Bishop and Anttila provided some background historical information regarding that area of Red Arrow Highway. The Township's request will be responded to by Road Commission staff.

### **Staff Report by Managing Director**

Bishop reported as follows:

- 1) 30<sup>th</sup> Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Ave and CR 653, Almena Township, continues. Final culvert May 25. Base paving today (6/2).
- 2) CR 374 RAH to 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence/Paw Paw Townships. Drainage corrections and widening continues.
- 3) 60<sup>th</sup> Ave and Two Oaks Circle, Antwerp Township, Chipseal May 24 and 25 Microseal May 27 and 28.
- 4) Base paving on CR380 from Village of Breedsville limits to Bloomingdale Township line begins Thursday/Friday.
- 5) Roadside mowing continues in Hamilton and Decatur with inhouse crews. Contractors have completed Covert and Bangor, working in South Haven and Geneva and starting Antwerp this week.
- 6) Grading roads in Arlington and Waverly Townships.
- 7) Contract Gravel began Tuesday (6/1) in Columbia Township.
- 8) Dust control in Pine Grove, Paw Paw, Bloomingdale, Almena, Porter, Hamilton, Hartford and Lawrence Townships. Following ASAP with the remaining.
- 9) Hot mix patching county wide both for potholes and seal coat prep.
- 10) Anticipate beginning our seal coat operations June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 11) A reminder, I am taking the week of June 20<sup>th</sup> off as vacation.

Discussion held regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and the current board meeting schedule. Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to move the regular meeting currently scheduled for July 7 to July 14 at 5:00 PM.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE  
Boze: AYE  
Hackenberg: AYE  
Kinney: AYE  
Burleson: AYE  
MOTION CARRIED.

### **(Staff Report continued by Bishop)**

- 12) I will attend the June 8<sup>th</sup> County Commission meeting in case there are questions regarding our request to allow Road Commissioners to buy into our vision and dental insurance plan.
- 13) I am attending a virtual conference on June 16 regarding legislative updates/changes to learn what new changes are in store for infrastructure financing.
- 14) We made our last payment on the Lawrence facility on May 27.
- 15) The Van Buren Youth Fair is scheduled for July 19 through the 24<sup>th</sup>. We do not anticipate hosting a booth, but will have a grader at the fairgrounds to assist.
- 16) Group Leaders – Shop, Nick Mead; Working Foreman, Lewis Turner; Roadside, Mike Ritsema; Surface, Zack Payne.

Bishop provided the following Voucher update:

Voucher #2202	\$127,688.87
Voucher #2203	\$782,831.13

Highlights were noted by Bishop relating to larger payment items. Questions were asked and responded to by staff.

Bishop discussed the three segments of roadway proposed to be de-certified in Pine Grove Township. Contact has been made with the Township Supervisor, and there were no objections to the de-certification of these unimproved segments of roadway. Motion by Askew, seconded by Boze to adopt the following three (3) Resolutions:

**RESOLUTION 2021-31**

WHEREAS, North Street (a/k/a 9<sup>th</sup> Street) beginning at “J” Street and continuing South for 660' to “I” Street in Pine Grove Mills, Pine Grove Township appears on the Certification Maps of the Van Buren County Road Commission; however, the roadway:

1. Is not constructed to Road Commission standards;
2. Is not used, worked on, or maintained by public authorities;
3. Does not exist, and is not currently open to traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Street (a/k/a 9<sup>th</sup> Street) beginning at “J” Street and continuing South for 660' to “I” Street in Pine Grove Mills, Pine Grove Township, Van Buren County, Michigan is deleted for Act 51 Transportation funds, as recommended by Road Commission staff.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners does not herein relinquish, or in any way abandon the public right of way on North Street, Pine Grove Township, as described above.

**RESOLUTION 2021-32**

WHEREAS, 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue beginning at CR653 and continuing East for 0.78 mi. in Pine Grove Township appears on the Certification Maps of the Van Buren County Road Commission; however, the roadway:

1. Is not constructed to Road Commission standards;
2. Is not used, worked on, or maintained by public authorities;
3. Does not exist, and is not currently open to traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue beginning at CR653 and continuing East for 0.78 mi. in Pine Grove Township, Van Buren County, Michigan is deleted for Act 51 Transportation funds, as recommended by Road Commission staff.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners does not herein relinquish, or in any way abandon the public right of way on 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Pine Grove Township, as described above.

**RESOLUTION 2021-33**

WHEREAS, Kendall Court beginning at Lake Shore Drive and continuing East for 260' to 27 ½ Street in North Lake Park Subdivision, Pine Grove Township appears on the Certification Maps of the Van Buren County Road Commission; however, the roadway:

1. Is not constructed to Road Commission standards;
2. Is not used, worked on, or maintained by public authorities;
3. Does not exist, and is not currently open to traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Kendall Court beginning at Lake Shore Drive and continuing East for 260' to 27 ½ Street in North Lake Park Subdivision, Pine Grove Township, Van Buren County, Michigan is deleted for Act 51 Transportation funds, as recommended by Road Commission staff.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners does not herein relinquish, or in any way abandon the public right of way on Kendall Court, Pine Grove Township, as described above.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE  
Boze: AYE  
Hackenberg: AYE  
Kinney: AYE  
Burlison: AYE  
MOTION CARRIED.

Brucks provided information to the Board regarding the public bid opening of Drainage Pipe bids. Prices have gone up 280% from last year. There were only two bidding contractors this season due to a lack of being able to fulfill orders. Motion by Hackenberg, seconded by Boze to award to all bidding contractors, with Jensen Bridge & Supply Co. as primary supplier, in the best interest of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE  
Boze: AYE  
Hackenberg: AYE  
Kinney: AYE  
Burleson: AYE  
MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Lucas and Sarah Haselschwardt of Kingscott introduced themselves to the Board and provided a Preliminary Update on the Road Commission's Master Facility Plan. Kingscott has made a complete review of the Road Commission's facilities, including mechanical, electrical, and operational. Coverage areas, service areas, utility usage, etc. have also been reviewed with an eye towards: 1) retaining all facilities; 2) adjusting functions/operations of current facilities; 3) relocating facilities; or, 4) reducing the number of facilities. There is not currently a recommendation by Kingscott to relocate or reduce the number of Road Commission facilities. Lucas relayed that staff is already utilizing tools, such as staggering of start times, to provide for its service areas during snow events, which are only a small part of the Road Commission's operations. Haselschwardt presented proposed recommendations to update and improve the Bangor Garage. In addition, she provided preliminary recommendations by Kingscott to update the Administrative Office relating to its functions and efficiencies. Questions were asked by the Board and responded to by Kingscott. Following the presentation Lucas and Haselschwardt exited the meeting at 6:09 PM.

### **Commissioner Updates and Reports**

Askew: Discussion regarding request by South Haven Township for signs on bridges. Discussion regarding pending triathlon in South Haven/Covert Townships.

Boze: Attended Keeler Township last night.

Hackenberg: Attended Almena Township's meeting via virtual attendance. Has attempted to make contact with Antwerp Township. Made contact with Porter Township.

Kinney: Attended KATS Policy Meeting in person on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Burleson: No report.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to recess the regular meeting to open a regular meeting of the Board of Public Works at 6:14 PM.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE  
Boze: AYE  
Hackenberg: AYE  
Kinney: AYE  
Burleson: AYE  
MOTION CARRIED.

Regular meeting reconvened at 6:17 PM with all Members present.

The Chairman opened the meeting to Second Public Comment. Phil Hover thanked the Road Commission for prompt response to request for patching on Red Arrow Highway.

Linda Norton, Village of Breedsville, said "hello" to the Board and those present.

Motion by Boze, seconded by Hackenberg to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:19 PM.

Roll call vote:

Askew: AYE

Boze: AYE

Hackenberg: AYE

Kinney: AYE

Burleson: AYE

MOTION CARRIED.

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Board Secretary

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Board Chairman