

EATON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 23, 2016

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Board of Road Commissioners was held at their office in Charlotte, Michigan on February 23, 2016.

Members Present: Commissioners Maxwell, Eldred, Lyons, Tennis

Members Absent: Commissioner Lamoreaux

Chair Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Moved by Tennis, second by Lyons, that the agenda be approved as amended to include consideration seasonal weight restrictions. Motion carried.

Chair Maxwell called to order the public hearing for the purpose of answering questions and hearing public comment on the proposed closure or the proposed improvement with signal lights, gates and audible warning devices at the existing railroad grade crossing of Spicerville Highway at the Canadian National (CN) Railroad between White Road and Battle Creek Road in sections 5 and 8, Walton Township, at 6:02 pm.

Engineer-Manager Ballou reviewed the purpose of the hearing and introduced Kristian Foondle, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Rail.

Trudy Lehman, 4518 White Road, spoke in support of improving the railroad crossing.

Darrold Lehman, 4518 White Road, spoke in support of improving the railroad crossing.

Mike Ingraham, 4693 Griffin Hwy, spoke in support of improving the railroad crossing.

Amber Sinclair, 3981 Spicerville Hwy, spoke in support of improving the railroad crossing.

Denis Starr, 4306 Battle Creek Rd, spoke in support of improving the railroad crossing.

Lonnie Jones spoke in support of improving the railroad crossing.

Stacey Lawson, Olivet Public Schools Transportation Supervisor, expressed her concerns regarding enough space for school buses to turn around if crossing were to be closed.

Representatives of the Charlotte Fire Department were present to report that the closure of the crossing would not affect service because the policy of the Department was to not go across the railroad tracks.

There was discussion.

Chair Maxwell thanked the participants for attending and adjourned the public hearing at 6:50 pm.

Moved by Eldred, second by Lyons, that the minutes of February 9, 2016 be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Attendees of the public hearing that remained expressed concerns about several miscellaneous items, including tree trimming and drainage issues.

Moved by Eldred, second by Lyons, that Payroll (VO#36) of 02-11-16 in the amount of \$74,439.01, Accounts Payable (VO#37) of 02-11-16 in the amount of \$30,759.36, Accounts Payable (VO#38) of 02-18-16 in the amount of \$105,015.05, and Payroll (VO#39) of 02-25-16 in the amount of \$72,386.81, for total expenditures of \$282,600.23 be approved. There was discussion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Maxwell, Eldred, Lyons, Tennis; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Assistant County Engineer Hannahs presented the preliminary plat for Fieldstone Farms No. 5 and recommended approval. There was discussion.

Moved by Eldred, second by Lyons to approve the preliminary plat for Fieldstone Farms No. 5. Motion carried.

Mr. Ballou presented an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the modernization of traffic signals at Snow Road and Michigan Avenue, and Snow Road and St. Joe Highway, and recommended the Board authorize the Chair and Clerk to sign. There was discussion.

Moved by Tennis, second by Lyons to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Eaton County Road Commission for traffic signal work at the Snow Road and Michigan Avenue intersection and Snow Road and St. Joe Highway intersection; including timing improvement, traffic signal interconnection, traffic detection equipment, and concrete sidewalk ramps work; and all together with necessary related work located in Eaton County known as Job Number 123902A, Control Section CM 23400, Contract No. 16-5034, Project CM 1623(004), Federal Item No. HH 0797 be approved and that the Chairman, namely Dorothy E. Maxwell, and the Clerk, Lori N. Friedlis, be duly authorized to sign the contract.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Maxwell, Eldred, Lyons, Tennis; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Ballou presented a request from HTA Companies, Inc. to extend its contract for county-wide curb and street sweeping for one year pursuant to the terms of its current contract. He recommended the Board approve the request.

Moved by Lyons, second by Eldred to extend the Road Commission's county-wide curb and street sweeping contract with HTA Companies, Inc. for one year. Motion carried.

Mr. Hannahs reported on the status of road projects. There was discussion.

Mr. Parshall reported on the activities of the road crews. There was discussion.

An opinion column written by Neal Rohrs and printed in The County Journal, as well as two follow up letters to the editor, were reviewed.

Mr. Ballou discussed seasonal weight restrictions and requested the Board authorize staff to invoke weight restrictions as necessary. He noted that unless the Road Commission determines otherwise, seasonal weight restrictions will be imposed on March 1 by state law. There was discussion.

Moved by Lyons, second by Tennis to authorize the Engineer-Manager to invoke seasonal weight restrictions as he deems necessary. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the County Road Association of Michigan Highway Conference and the related legislative reception. The Board agreed by consensus not to plan a separate dinner with Eaton County legislators due to a conflict with the presentation of the Road Commission's Annual Report at March's meeting of the Eaton County Commission.

There was discussion regarding the status of the employee classification and compensation study.

Correspondence regarding truck traffic on Ainger Road was reviewed.

There was no public comment

Moved by Eldred, second by Lyons to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. Motion carried.