

Regular Session of the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held at 5:00 p.m.

Board Chairman Shafer called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag was given.

Present: Chairman Eric Shafer, Vice Chairman Rodney Chupp, Commissioner Vince Mifsud, Commissioner Dave Miars, Commissioner John Bippus, and Clerk of the Board Brittany Hinn

Staff Members Present: Managing Director, John Lindsey  
Assistant Manager & Engineer, Garrett Myland

Visitors: Rick Shaffer, County Commission  
Christina Yunker, County Commission  
Luis Rosado, County Commission  
Jason Trosper, White Pigeon Township  
Robert Tomilson, Three Rivers Commercial  
Kathy Roberts, Fabius Township  
Rea Brown, Flowerfield Township, newly appointed commissioner

Rea Brown was introduced as the new Road Commissioner, term beginning 1/1/2026.

Motion by Commissioner Miars seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to approve the agenda of December 17, 2025, meeting and Minutes of December 3, 2025 meeting.

Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Jason Trosper: Everything is good, just came to see what is happening.

Kathy Roberts: It's getting hard to find a parking spot around here.

Rea Brown: I'm excited to get started and try something new.

Rick Shaffer: It's good to be here. I don't get here often, I'm a little ashamed of that. I'm glad to have Rea appointed last night. Personal and special thank you, Eric, my 17<sup>th</sup> cousin removed. Eric has been on lots of boards and public service committees, and he has done an outstanding job on the Road Commission. Merry Christmas.

Public Hearing for the 2025 and 2026 Budgets began at 5:03 p.m.

Public Comments:

Luis: You guys were talking about the drainage budget; I have one question on that. For the roundabout and the extra water, is there a plan to drain that?

Rick: I have one comment for Lockport Township, Mark Majors shared a comment at their last meeting about the relationship between the township and the road commission and the deep appreciation for coverage for the lost revenue sharing. Without the coverage they wouldn't have done a road project this year.

Christina: When it comes to the marijuana money. The county spends the money prior to receiving it, it's a fluctuating number. I said we should be holding back a year and see what we actually have before its budgeted. While it might cause an issue with what you were anticipating, I think it is the fiscally

responsible thing to do and think the county should be doing it as well. I appreciate the fact that the road commission is debt free. I'm not nervous about the deficit spending, it was planned.

Public Hearing for the 2025 and 2026 Budgets ended at 5:58 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Miars seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to approve the November payroll in the amount of \$201,288.81

Roll Call Vote taken: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer                      Nays: None  
Absent: None                      Abstained: None                      Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Miars seconded by Commissioner Bippus to approve the November A/P in the amount of \$376,436.03

Roll Call Vote taken: Ayes: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer                      Nays: None  
Absent: None                      Abstained: None                      Motion carried.

### **CERTIFIED MOTION**

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud supported by Commissioner Miars to allow Truck & Trailer Specialties to remove components from our existing 2006 Peterbilt Chassis for transfer to new 2026 Peterbilt Chassis for the unit price of \$76,173.00 (Seventy-Six Thousand, One Hundred Seventy-Three and 00/00 dollars) for a grand total of \$152,346.00 (One hundred-fifty-two thousand, three hundred forty six and 00/00 dollars).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer                      Nays: None  
Absent: None                      Abstained: None                      Motion carried.

### **CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

Motion by Commissioner Chupp seconded by Commissioner Mifsud that Garrett Myland, PE at the St. Joseph County Road Commission, is authorized to sign the contract regarding the MDOT Contract Number: 25-5584 (Category CFDA No. 20.205 Highway Research Planning & Construction);

#### **PART A – JOB #216327CON – FEDERAL AND STATE PARTICIPATION**

Hot mix asphalt cold milling, trenching, widening and resurfacing along Lutz Road from Roys Road to Centreville-Constantine Road and trenching, widening and resurfacing along Lutz Road from Centreville-Constantine Road to Featherstone Road and from Mintdale Road to Stears Road, including aggregate shoulder and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

#### **PART B – JOB #221969CON – FEDERAL PARTICIPATION**

Hot mix asphalt cold milling and resurfacing, shoulder trenching and widening along Lutz Road from Featherstone Road to Mintdale Road, including tree and stump removal, clearing, aggregate shoulder, guardrail, bridge deck waterproofing and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

A roll call vote was taken: Aye votes cast: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer  
Nay votes cast: None                      Abstained: None                      Absent:                      Motion carried.

### **Certified Resolution of 2025 Budget**

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Commissioner Bippus to approve the 2025 Budget Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be both the general appropriations resolution and the budget adoption resolution of the St. Joseph County Road Commission for the year ended December 31,  
Board Meeting of 12.17.2025

2025. This resolution adopts proposed revenues and expenditures as presented in the accompanying budget documents. Total revenues are adopted as \$16,190,433.19 expenditures as \$14,074,946.31 with revenues exceeding expenditures on December 31, 2025 by \$2,115,486.88, and;

WHEREAS, no St. Joseph County Road Commission member or employee of the commission shall expend any funds or obligate any expenditures except pursuant to appropriations authorized by the budget document. Changes in amounts appropriated by the Commission shall require approval of the Commission, and;

WHEREAS, John W. Lindsey, Managing Director, is hereby charged with the general supervision of the execution of the budget adopted by the Commission, now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Managing Director and Director of Administration and Finance be allowed to adjust the 2025 budget after December 31, 2025 to modify the various revenue and expenditure accounts which cannot be accurately projected prior to year-end, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is to take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer  
Absent: None

Abstained: None

Nays: None  
Motion carried

#### **MOTION**

Motion by Commissioner Miars seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to adopt the 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Budgets as presented.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer  
Absent:

Abstained: None

Nays: None  
Motion carried .

#### **MOTION**

Motion by Commissioner Bippus seconded by Commissioner Miars to approve the Managing Director contract of John Lindsey an effective December 17, 2025.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer  
Absent:

Abstained: None

Nays: None  
Motion carried

#### **MOTION**

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Commissioner Miars to approve the Managing Director contract of Garrett Myland effective February 1, 2026.

Roll Call Vote Ayes: Bippus, Miars, Mifsud, Chupp, Shafer  
Absent:

Abstained: None

Nays: None  
Motion carried

Citizens Comments:

Christina: Thank you, Eric, Dave and I wish you the best.

Rick: I can think of a couple of more committees that are open.

Kathy: That was a good farewell speech, I'm glad to here that you are still involved in stuff.

Commissioner's Comments:

Dave: You will be missed; it's been a pleasure working with you. This last snow we had, what did we do different? The roads looked great, down to the asphalt, no chunks. My road was great.

Vince: Thank you for your time. Between you and Dave Allen, my 7 years on the board have been great. I appreciate the leadership. I stopped at my place in Lake County on the way home from the conference last week, all the roads were white, packed down snow and ice. That's normal up there. It's good that we are hard on ourselves and trying to always do better.

John: Eric, thank you for everything. I recruited you, or at least asked you to apply. It's been fun, we wouldn't have got it all done without you.

Rodney: What everyone else said and I would add that I've appreciated your levelheaded, cool demeanor. While he have public meetings, and we attempt to be as transparent as we can, as an organization there are personnel matters, contractual matters, etc. that have to be handled at peoples request with privacy. You handle those all with a cool head and professionally. I appreciate your good judgement and calm demeanor.

Eric: Thank you all for the kind words. I was pulled aside after the county commission last night about leaning trees on Shimmel Road. His name is Henry Eicher, I told him I would let you know, and you'd get back to him. I would like to thank Brittany, Garrett, and John for the work on the budget. Garrett did a great job presenting the budget, I appreciate that. I appreciate the new format. Thank you, John Bippus, for his help that he gave to John and the staff on the sale of the Cline pit. It's been a benefit to the road commission to have his professional participation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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Eric B Shafer, Chairman

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Brittany Hinn, Deputy Clerk of the Board

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