

Regular Session of the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held with Polycom access 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 David Miars, Commissioner Jack Coleman, and Clerk Julie Mayuiers

Staff Members Present: John Lindsey, Managing Director

Visitors: Rebecca Shank, 385 S. Washington St., Constantine
Kemp Kotschevar, Centreville, MI

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Vice Chairman Chupp to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda of September 4, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Commissioner Coleman to approve the September payroll in the amount of \$282,179.75.

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

Motion by Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Miars to approve the September A/P in the amount of \$489,811.65.

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

Citizens Comments: Rebecca Shank drove on Youngs Prairie Road and wanted to thank the road commission for painting the lines on it, making it much easier to see the road. After the lines were painted the last time on Youngs Prairie there was a bump on the edge and made it difficult to see and hard on the tires, but that is not the case this time. Thank you! She was glad to see the attention and progress on the Covered Bridge. This is the one thing in our county that attracts tourists, and they spend money when they are visiting our county. River Country Tourists shut down a while ago and that has eliminated as many tourists. The new county maps have a lot of great tourism items in them. The last couple of years she has suggested that the county open a tourist's website. It's embarrassing our county doesn't do a better job presenting what we have here in the county to offer to tourists. Other counties have racks of tourist brochures on the history of the county. Thank you for what you do!

Commissioners Comments:

Miars - Enjoyed tonight's conversation on how things have transpired at the road commission over the years. He has a buddy that does drone stuff and has offered to assist us on any projects we have with his drone services at no charge. Going back in history, John and his crew have done a great job at keeping things going and updating them and all without incurring any debt.

Coleman – Rob Martell of Martell Real Estate is hoping to give John a call and help locate a gravel pit for the road commission. He stopped by to talk with a gentleman on Cotherman Lake Road the other day and he had nothing but good things to say about the road commission. He took the opportunity to discuss the upcoming millage and the gentleman had no hesitation on it. He also met a couple at the

Covered Bridge from out of town that were stopping to take pictures of the bridge. He received word from the FAA that the rules he relayed regarding flying drones at the last meeting were correct.

Chupp – It’s nice to see that 13 years later we have finally finished the renovations at the road commission and wanted to thank John for getting this all started. When we look at the cost of remodeling/renovations we did it the right way. Asked if we have leverage with the contractors on Lutz Road when they don’t do what they were supposed to. – Response from John Lindsey was that there are guidelines we must follow in selecting a contractor and that is what we did.

Shafer – In his 10 years on the board there have been things controversial and he’s happy to see that we have completed 2 of those. 1) The Covered Bridge Project, 2) Consolidation of 3 facilities into 1. This leaves just one thing to work on and that is the all the bridges in St. Joseph County and how to maintain all of them. He is pleased to see that we have finally completed the SWOT analysis and we now have a plan to move forward. Julie has sent him the updated Manager’s Review template and we will work on the review at the next Board Meeting. He suggested to John Lindsey that we take the opportunity at the Township Supervisor’s Annual meeting in November to mention the upcoming millage. He has been a commissioner for 10 years and tonight was the first time he’s had a County Commissioner liaison Luis Rosado contact him that he would not be able to attend our meeting tonight and he appreciated that very much and the job Luis is doing in taking our information back to the other county commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Eric Shafer, Chairman

Julie A. Mayuiers, Clerk of the Board
