

Regular Meeting

November 19, 2025

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: Dustin Swarthout, Fulton
Mark Hacker, Athens
Mark Ripplinger, White Pigeon
Kathie Roberts, Fabius Township
Tony Mayer, Lockport Township
Robert Tomilson, Three Rivers Commercial
Christina Yunker, County Commissioner
Luis Rosado, County Commissioner

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Commissioner Miars to approve the agenda of November 19th meeting as amended, adding offer to purchase Cline Pit under new business and Minutes of November 5, 2025 meeting.

Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Tony Mayer: I live on Birchleaf Court in Lockport Township. My experiences with the St. Joseph County Road Commission, especially John Lindsey and Garrett Myland have always been positive. Both have treated me with honesty, fairness, and professionalism. Thank you for the integrity and continue to stand firm against pressure from any township seeking to use county agencies to settle personal or political disputes. I also want the public record to reflect that I have always been cooperative with the road commission. I treat the commission and its staff with respect because I value the work you do. You have always treated me fairly and I appreciate that. Thank you for your time and thank you for continuing to serve the community with honesty and transparency. Your contributions may go unnoticed by some but many of us are truly grateful for your integrity. Thank you.

Kathie Roberts: Thank you for being transparent and communicating well. This is my 2nd opportunity to be here, you may be seeing me more often. I'm trying to get more educated. Thank you for all you are doing. God bless you all.

Mark Ripplinger: Good Evening, I am Mark Ripplinger. I've lived in Mottville township for over 40 years. I saw that you guys had an opening on the board, I filled out a citizen's interest form. I wanted to take the opportunity to stop in and introduce myself and answer any questions.

Motion by Commissioner Miars seconded by Commissioner Bippus to approve the October payroll in the amount of \$208,214.42

Roll Call Vote taken:

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Chupp seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to approve the October A/P in the amount of \$1,406,998.61

Roll Call Vote taken: Ayes:

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Motion carried.

Dustin Swarhout: Per SJCRC Policy Sale of Surplus Real Estate Dustin presented an offer to purchase the Kline Pit.

MOTION

Motion by Commissioner Bippus seconded by Commissioner Miars to allow John to work towards a purchase agreement and lease agreement with Swarhout Excavating to purchase the Kline Pit.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Motion carried.

MOTION

Motion by Commissioner Chupp seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to approve the 2026 Work Session and Board Meeting Schedule.

Motion carried.

MOTION

Motion by Commissioner Bippus seconded by Commissioner Miars that the audit contract with Rehmann CPAs be extended for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, with an annual cost not to exceed \$19,700.00 for auditing the financial records, accounts and procedures.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Motion carried.

CERTIFIED MOTION

Motion by Commissioner Chupp seconded by Commissioner Mifsud that the Board is authorized to sign the Scott Cronkite of Cronkite Farms Inc. Cash Farm Lease. The terms of this lease shall be from January 1, 2026 thru December 31, 2026.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Luis Rosado: I don't know if Christina mentioned it but December 8th at 8:00a.m. we are having interviews for the Road Commissioner vacancy. We have 4 confirmed citizens interest forms, possibly more. Do you recall if last time it was open to the public? I'll check into it and see if it is a public meeting as there is no quorum. The deadline is December 1st for citizens interest forms.

Mark Hacker: I appreciate the road commission working with us. In 1977 we started pumping water out of the Kline pit. I travel 4 counties frequently. St. Joseph county has the best roads out of all of them.

Commissioner's Comments:

John: Thanks everyone for coming, its nice to have friendly faces in the crowd.

Dave: Thank you for your comments. I appreciate those. I'm glad to see people here.

Vince: I don't have anything, they covered it. Thank you.

Rodney: I learned on the school board; people don't like when you mess with their kids. When you are on the Road Commission people don't like when you mess with their trees. At one of the conferences I attended, they told a story about a woman who chained herself to a dead tree. This woman had lost her son to cancer and compared it to this tree being cut down. People aren't rationale and trees hold a special position.

Eric: Thank you to Kathie and Tony for the kind words they gave us. Thank you to everyone else for coming. I have been, for reasons other than road commission attending many township meetings over the last couple of weeks. As long as I was there, I decided I would make sure those boards, knew about and understood the changes to the gas tax. Both supervisors were appreciative of Johns suggestion of making them whole because of the loss they have received because of the changes. It is not often that you get the opportunity to tell the public that we have 3 governmental units working together. It felt really good to be able to say that. In addition, they were both happy about the hiring of Garrett as manager.

Managing Director John Lindsey requested the Board go into Closed Session to discuss his annual review.

Motion by Miars seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel evaluation at 6:06 p.m.

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

Board came out of Closed Session at 7: 48 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Eric B Shafer, Chairman

Brittany Hinn, Deputy Clerk of the Board

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