

Work Session of the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Board Room at the St. Joseph County Road Commission, 20914 M-86, Centreville, Michigan with Chairman Shafer calling the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

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

Present: Chairman Eric Shafer, Commissioner David Miars, Commissioner Jack Coleman, Vice Chairman Rodney Chupp VIA polycom and Deputy Clerk of the Board Brittany Hinn

Absent: Commissioner Vince Mifsud

Staff Members Present: John Lindsey, Managing Director  
Garrett Myland, Assistant Manager / PE  
Nate Taylor, Director of Fleets & Facilities  
Don Preston, Director of Operations

Visitors: Robert Tomlinson, Three Rivers Commercial  
Carol Slavic  
Christina Yunker, County Commission

Citizens Comments:

Carol Slavic- Thank you to the Road Commission for snow removal, I really appreciate the good job that you guys do. Also thank you I saw where you guys are going to redo Findley Road. I want to thank you for that because I live off Findley and I have to drive it. I am a precinct delegate, so I am trying to get more involved in the area to find out what is going on. This is my first meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Miars to approve the agenda of March 5 and the Minutes of February 19, 2025, Board Meeting.

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the State and Federal Governments have made money available in the Local Bridge Program for use by State, County, City, and Village agencies, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Joseph County Road Commission has reviewed and approved the Local Bridge Program for the following bridges, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Joseph County Road Commission is actively seeking participation in the replacement of the following bridges, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Joseph County Road Commission will commit the necessary local funds for the design and construction engineering in addition to a percent funding match for the construction phase of the bridges listed below.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. Joseph County Road Commission submit the necessary documentation to have these bridges included for funding through this program:

1. Carls Road over the Fawn River (SN 10336 replacement) at a Ten (10) percent match estimated at \$1,800,000

2. Nottawa Road over the Wood Lake Drain (SN 10318 replacement) at a Five (5) percent match estimated at \$1,700,000.
3. Michigan Ave over Portage River (SN 10299 Multiple PM) at a Five (5) percent match estimated at \$244,000, Parkville Road over Portage River (SN 10312 Multiple PM) at a Five (5) percent match estimated at \$265,000, Sevison Road over White Pigeon River (SN 10330 Multiple PM) at a Five (5) percent match estimated at \$84,000.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Miars seconded by Commissioner Coleman that the above bridge have applications submitted for **2028 MDOT Local Bridge Program Funding** in the above priority.

**Motion Carried:**

**Ayes: Miars, Coleman, Shafer**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Mifsud, Chupp**

I, Brittany Hinn, Deputy Clerk of the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy as recorded in the minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2025.

*Brittany Hinn*

Brittany Hinn

Deputy Clerk of the Board

**Citizen Comments:**

Chrisina Yunker- Talking about bonding, I don't know if you guys are aware the county is looking at a pretty significant bond for the courthouse renovation. So, I have opinions on that, I don't believe the government should be borrowing money for wants. There are some needs so I'm struggling with that project. So there is that potential of the bond at the county level for the courthouse, then you start looking at a bond for roads the timing might not be great with public perception. Just throwing that out there to you guys.

Carol Slavic- I thanked Jack, now that I am here, I can thank everyone. At the corner of 86 and Findley Road, that is a light that crosses the road there and it was out for a while. Thank you for fixing it.

**Commissioners Comments:**

Dave – You guys amaze me. Jack was talking about the 2 million dollars, Brittany was shaking her head, so I called her out she knew exactly what went where. Garrett jumped in. You all just seem to know what is constantly going on and you can just pull it out of a hat. I'm impressed you guys do good. There is a good crew that works here and you all work good together. It's a dream team.

Jack – At the last southwest county road association meeting Denise said that the money we have to pay for the butterflies was going to the University of Illinois. I had congressman Walberg's office look into it. That's not true, they don't know where the funds are going but they know its not going to the University of Illinois. My point is County Road Association is always consistently proving themselves unreliable on information and I'm still questioning what benefit they provide. I'm not talking about MCRCSIP, the self-insurance pool I'm talking about the County Road Association. Some of the conferences they put on are good, we can go to them as non-members. With the amount of money we pay the CRA and the agenda they are propelling as far as road funding, which nobody in Lansing agrees with, Speaker Hall is coming up with an entirely different plan that the CRA frankly doesn't support through there science of it. In my opinion they are representing the local road commissions, and they are propelling an agenda that isn't good statewide. We really need to hold them accountable or think about leaving. I will keep bringing that up every time they keep bringing up false information.

Rodney – I encourage you guys to look at the Safe Streets for All draft. Its really important to get that in right away. We need to remember how sloppy and messy these dirt roads are, granted it's a brief amount of time but when we get spring thaws. Townships are hesitant to pitch in their portion to maintain a hard surface

road and put it back to gravel. They need to understand this is something they are going to have to deal with and they are going to get calls on it. I think it is a point we need to make when we have those conversations because there really is nothing, we can do about it.

Eric- The biggest thing that I have to talk about is the potential summit that I brought up at the beginning of the year. As I am thinking about the summit, I'm coming to the conclusion myself that it's busy work. We really don't have anything this year, as an ask from the public. So, the only reason that I suggested it was because I was feeling like I need to do something to contribute to the road commission. I would like to suggest that we not do one this year. When it comes time that John retires, whenever that is, we have his replacement and my replacement that we have a introduce the new manager to the public kind of thing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21am

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Eric B. Shafer, Chairman

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Brittany Hinn, Deputy Clerk of the Board