

## **Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners**

555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

### **Virtual Board Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021**

- Board Present: Road Commissioners Barbara Fuller – Chair, Douglas Fuller, Gloria Llamas, Jo Ann McCollum
- Board Absent: Road Commissioner Rod Green – Vice Chair
- Staff Present: D. Ackerman, J. Harmon, K. Harris, E. Kizer, M. MacDonell, N. Peterson, C. Ryan; S. Siddall
- Others Present: L. Deck, S. Peterson, S. Shink – County Commissioner, District 2

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Barbara Fuller, Chair.

#### Roll Call of Attendance:

Barbara Fuller, Chair – remote from Sharon Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Rodrick Green, Vice-Chair – absent  
Doug Fuller, Member – remote from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Gloria Llamas, Member – remote from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Jo Ann McCollum, Member – remote from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director  
Matt MacDonell, Director of Engineering/County Highway Engineer  
Jim Harmon, Director of Operations  
Dan Ackerman, Director of Finance & IT

#### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

In recognition of yesterday's observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commissioner B. Fuller asked that we consider his quote as we go about our daily lives: "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

Additionally, Commissioner Fuller asked that we observe a moment of silence in recognition of two sad events;

First, Larry Leonarduzi, a 57-year-old, 7-year Iron County Road Commission employee who died last Wednesday after being hit by a pickup truck and pinned between it and his work vehicle.

Second, Commissioner Fuller asked that we observe a moment of silence out of respect for the countless essential workers who continue to serve and for those 394,000 Americans, including nearly 15,000 Michiganders, who have perished because of the COVID-19 virus.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RC21-110 J. McCollum moved, G. Llamas seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

RC21-111 G. Llamas moved, J. McCollum seconded to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2021 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

RC21-112 J. McCollum moved, G. Llamas seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes of January 5, 2021 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

RC21-113 G. Llamas moved, J. McCollum seconded to approve the Working Session Minutes of December 15, 2020 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Packard Road Cycling Improvements**

Seth Peterson, Vice Chair of the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC) addressed the Board asking for consideration of bicycling improvements along Packard Road between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. The WBWC recently initiated a Packard Bikeway Task Force. The goal of this task force is to identify short-term opportunities as well as long-term design solutions for improved bicycling facilities along Packard Road.

Larry Deck who also represents the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition, stated that he supports the comments made from Seth Peterson regarding bicycling improvements along Packard Road.

## **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

### **DTE-Gas Permit Work**

- N. Wagner Road between Cottontail Lane and Woodlea Drive in Scio Township

### **Upgrades to pedestrian facilities**

- Delhi Road Bridge over the Huron River in Scio Township

### **Other Communications**

Commissioner McCollum asked about further explanation on the Miller Road Bridge project delay. Matt MacDonell, Director of Engineering, explained that this delay was caused by utility delays with DTE. Matt stated that he and staff have communicated with Pam Wilson and Rick Helper regarding their concerns on the Miller Road Bridge project delay.

FROM: Pam Wilson

SUBJECT: Miller Road Bridge project – concerns with delay in project

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FROM: Rick Helper

SUBJECT: Miller Road Bridge project – concerns with delay in project

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FROM: Chris Chapin

SUBJECT: Oak Park Estates – new roads (SAD)

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

RC21-114 J. McCollum moved, G. Llamas seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for January 19, 2021 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

## **Liberty Road at Zeeb Road Intersection Improvement Project – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement**

RC21-115 J. McCollum moved, G. Llamas seconded that upon the recommendation of the Director of Engineering and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby authorizes the Managing Director to sign the contract with Fishbeck, Inc. for the preliminary engineering of Liberty Road at Zeeb Road Intersection Improvement Project, at a cost not to exceed \$55,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

## **Payroll & Bills for January 6, 2021**

RC21-116 J. McCollum moved, G. Llamas seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher #10436 totaling \$357,357.96 for payroll of January 6, 2021, and Voucher #10437 totaling \$1,625,057.12 in payment of bills for January 6, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### **County Road Association (CRA) – Board of Directors Ballot – 2021**

RC21-117 D. Fuller moved, B. Fuller seconded to nominate Joanna Johnson, Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, to serve on the CRA Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

## **REPORTS**

### **COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

#### **County Commissioner Sue Shink**

There will be a Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners meeting tomorrow.

#### **County Commissioner Caroline Sanders**

Not present.

### **ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

#### **Commissioner Doug Fuller**

No report.

#### **Commissioner Barb Fuller**

- 1/6/21 Chat with the Road Commission – no attendees from the public
- 1/8/21 SEMCOG Virtual Broadband Round Table: With some 20 participants, Washtenaw County specifically and schools generally were well represented. Participants are sounding the alarm that there is a crisis in access for remote learning from both a technological availability and an economic access perspective. While stop gap measures, like parking lot Wi-Fi, are being put in place – a long-term solution to achieve statewide broadband equity has yet to be put forward. More recently, making appointments for COVID-19 vaccines online is a problem for those without access at home.
- 1/12/21 Sharon Township Virtual Planning Commission Meeting: Mineral Extraction Ordinance was discussed at length. Planning Commission will make recommendations to the Township Board for consideration at their February 4, 2021 regular meeting. The Mineral Extraction Ordinance is being totally re-written with the assistance of attorney Gerald “Gerry” Fisher and planning consultants from Carlisle Wortman. Permit applications for mineral extraction will not be accepted until the ordinance and zoning changes are in place.

**Commissioner Rod Green**

Not present.

**Commissioner Jo Ann McCollum**

The County Parks & Recreation has proposed a York Township Park to be a new nature preserve opening in 2022 on the Saline River at the intersection of Dennison Road and Mooreville Road.

The Parks Commission discussed a partnership with the Stiles-Kaldijan property allowing small building envelopes on conservation easements. The Parks Commission Board was not in favor of the building envelope being in the middle of the property if it is too large. This property will be discussed further.

**Commissioner Gloria Llamas**

Commissioner Llamas spent time this weekend on reviewing the public comments on the Draft Tree Policy.

**Commissioner Doug Fuller**

No report.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director**

- Recruiting Report – this is a new report to address questions on various recruiting efforts the Road Commission is making.
- January 27 & 28 – Road Funding 101 Workshops will be held.
- The next Chat with the Road Commission is Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> with Commissioner Rod Green and Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director.

**FINANCE & IT REPORT – Dan Ackerman, Director of Finance & IT**

- The annual audit with Plante Moran starts on February 1<sup>st</sup> which will be a virtual audit.
- Staff is processing year-end invoices.
- Staff is working on finalizing year-end items and yearly tax information.

**OPERATIONS REPORT – Jim Harmon, Director of Operations**

- Crews have been working on road surface maintenance and tree trimming of dead trees
- Winter maintenance has been performed 25 days using 10,000 tons of salt to-date. The total salt cost has been a little over \$560,000 dollars.

**ENGINEERING REPORT – Matt MacDonell, Director of Engineering**

- Zeeb Road Project and Liberty Road/Zeeb Road – engineering staff is working on moving these projects forward this construction season of 2021.
- Permit Year-End Report – Matt stated that permits have picked up despite the continuing COVID pandemic situation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

RC21-118 G. Llamas moved, J. McCollum seconded to adjourn the January 19, 2021 meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: D. Fuller, G. Llamas, J. McCollum, B. Fuller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: R. Green

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

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Barbara Fuller, Chair

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Sheryl Soderholm Siddall, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_