

January 12, 2023

Chairman Mayer called the **regular meeting** of the Branch County Road Commission to order at 9:16 AM, with Commissioner Travelbee, Commissioner Weigt, Commissioner Liaison McClellan, Manager-Clerk Miller and Foreman Washburn present. Guests present were Cathy Weigt and Mike Hard, Branch County Drain Commissioner.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Chairman Mayer to add Deer Disposal to the agenda. Motion Carried 3-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Chairman Mayer to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Carried 3-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee, that Robert Mayer be elected **Chairman** of the Branch County Road Commission for the year **2023**.
Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Travelbee seconded by Chairman Mayer, that Steve Weigt be elected **Vice-Chairman** for the Branch County Road Commission for the year **2023**. Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee; approve the **December 15, 2022** board minutes, as presented. Motion Carried 3-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee; monies be received as follows: Coldwater Comm Schools (AR) \$126.31; Bronson City (AR) \$297.79; Consumers Energy (Permit) \$200; BC Parks (AR) \$25,008.49; Oxcart Permits (Permits) \$2,850; Frontier (Permit) \$300; Consumers Energy (Permit) \$200; City of Coldwater (AR) \$616.11; Julie Pierson (Reimb) \$76.43; Barton Mallow Co. (Permits) \$600; AT&T (Permit) \$250; Butler Twp. (Gravel Projects) \$18,408.74; Lloyd Barrows (Permit) \$50; Batavia Twp. (AR) \$180.73; **Totaling \$49,164.60**. Motion Carried 3-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee, following the audit of bills and payroll, for payments **totaling \$284,735.41 for week ended 12/29/22 and \$331,121.41 for week ended 1/12/22** is approved. Motion Carried 3-0.

Public Comment: None

Manager-Clerk Miller discussed and reviewed the following information with the Board:

- A. Board Room Calendar (Chairman Mayer will not be able to attend the January 26, 2023 meeting)
- B. Winter Maintenance Activities (Chairman Mayer discussed with Brian Washburn several area roads that have spots that will need attention due to the winter weather effects on the roads. Foreman Washburn advised the Board that frost is coming up with the recent rains. Three crews have continued to cut and trim trees in the area)
- C. The 2022 PA 325 Compliance Plan (The Branch County plan has been submitted and approved. The next submittal is due in 2025)
- D. 2023 Highway Conference & Road Show (Commissioner Weigt urged Foreman Washburn to attend with some additional staff members. It is a good experience.)
- E. Branch County Road Commission Bridge Updates (Gower Road Bridge is scheduled for 2023. Central Road Bridge is scheduled for 2024)

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt, seconded by Commissioner Travelbee, that pursuant to Act No. 267, Michigan Public Acts of 1976, authorization be given to Chairman Mayer to sign the **Notice of Public Meetings** for **2023**, which will be filed with the Branch County Clerk's Office.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Mayer, Travelbee, Weigt – 3

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee, that the Branch County Road Commission Board of Road Commissioners, authorize all members to attend any “**Special Meetings**” or “**Official Business**” events, as may be required **during 2023**.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Mayer, Travelbee, Weigt – 3

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee, that authorization be given for **Business Year 2023, to use the Optional Transfer**, and if needed, to apply through the Michigan Department of Transportation, **to use the Emergency Transfer of Motor Vehicle Highway Funds**. These transfers to be done from Local Road Funds to Primary Road Funds, or Primary Road Fund to Local Road Funds.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Mayer, Travelbee, Weigt – 3

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee, to authorize Manager Miller to implement and lift **weight restriction requirements as needed, during 2023**.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Mayer, Travelbee, Weigt – 3

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mike Hard, Branch County Drain Commissioner, discussed the Prairie River Reclassification proposal that is being considered by the State of Michigan. Commissioner Hard gave a history of the Prairie River and explained how the trout population and water temperature designation are related. A change in temperature designation of the Prairie River has the potential for a wide range of negative ramifications for Branch County. The State has delayed the final decision for 30 days.

MOTION by Commissioner Travelbee seconded by Commissioner Weigt to adopt a Resolution of Opposition to the Prairie River Reclassification.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Mayer, Travelbee, Weigt – 3

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to set an award date of January 26, 2023 for the following items:

- A. Pavement Markings
- B. Asphalt Cement/Emulsions
- C. Cold Patch
- D. Culvert Pipe, Bands, Other Bridge & Culvert Materials
- E. Natural or Slag Course Aggregate, 31A

Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to book Truck #12, Truck #137 and Truck #138 to Rangerbid.com for disposition. Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to adopt the Resolution for Job No. 207726CON: Control Section BHT 12000; Structure #12819; Contract No. 22-5476.

Upon roll call vote the results were as follows:

Yes – Mayer, Travelbee, Weigt – 3

No – 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to adopt the 2021-2023 Land Use Agreement – Farming Purposed for 230 W Chicago Rd., Coldwater with Against the Grain Farms LLC. Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to adopt the 2023 Agreement for Kozloski Pit Land Use with Andrew L. Bailey. Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to table the 2023 Land Use Agreement for Martin Pit with Davis Farms to be discussed at the next meeting. Motion Carried 3-0

Commissioner Weigt discussed with the Board the cost of deer disposal within Branch County. It is done as a courtesy at the County's expense and Commissioner Weigt would like to seek reimbursement at State level, possibly with the Department of Natural Resources. The matter has been tabled for discussion at a later meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Travelbee seconded by Commissioner Weigt for adjournment with no further business to come before the Board. Motion Carried 3-0.

The meeting closed at 10:35 a.m.

Robert Mayer, Chairman

Steve Weigt, Member

Randy Travelbee, Member

Jay Miller, Manager-Clerk