

December 15, 2022

Chairman Mayer called the **regular meeting** of the Branch County Road Commission to order at 9:06 AM, with Commissioner Travelbee, Commissioner Weigt, Commissioner Liaison Matthew, Manager-Clerk Miller and Superintendent Bell present. Guests present were Cathy Weigt and Don Reid, The Daily Reporter.

MOTION by Chairman Mayer seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to amend the agenda and add Prairie River Reclassification. Motion Carried 3-0

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

MOTION by Commissioner Travelbee seconded by Commissioner Weigt; approve the **December 1, 2022** board minutes, as presented. Motion Carried 3-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Travelbee seconded by Commissioner Weigt; monies be received as follows: Max Delagrange (Permit) \$150; Consumers Energy (Permit) \$200; James Carpenter Jr. (Permit) \$150; General Sanitation (Permit) \$150; Westwind Const (Permit) \$500; Consumers Energy (Permit) \$200; 3A Dist Court (Reimb) \$13; SME (refund) \$1,657.25; **Totaling \$3,020.25**. Motion Carried 3-0.

MOTION by Commissioner Travelbee seconded by Commissioner Weigt, following the audit of bills and payroll, for payments **totaling \$391,950.38** is approved. Motion Carried 3-0.

Public Comment:

- Commissioner Liaison Matthew thanked our guests for faithfully attending so many meetings, our secretary, Manager, Superintendent and Board Members for their hard work and for the care that is given to the citizens of Branch County. Chairman Mayer offered his appreciation for Commissioner Matthew's service as liaison.
- Don Reid, The Daily Reporter requested that Manager Miller touch base with Ralph Strong in Union Township regarding a bridge scheduled for attention in 2023.
- On behalf of Girard Township, Cathy Weigt thanked Superintendent Bell for his years of service to Branch County and wished him all the best in retirement.

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

- A. Board Room Calendar (The Board meeting scheduled for December 29, 2022 has been cancelled)
- B. Bridge Inspections & Updates (Posted Load Ratings for two bridges lowered. Update for Bridge Bundle schedule – Gower Road Bridge – 2023, Central Road Bridge – 2024)
- C. Prairie River Reclassification (The State is trying to reclassify Prairie River from a warm stream to a cold stream. Would have a significant impact in many areas for the county, including replacing bridges over the stream to correspond with the new designation, if passed. Highly urge citizens and County Agencies to voice opposition to this proposal within the 30 day comment period, which has already begun.)
- D. Processing Gravel at the Central Pit (Now processing 20AA gravel. Manager Miller provided a 2023 Price Sheet from a gravel retailer to help illustrate the cost savings of producing our own gravel)

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to approve the purchase of a New Holland tractor. Motion Carried 3-0

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to open the Public Hearing: Proposed 2023 Road Commission Budget at 9:35. Motion Carried 3-0

Manager Miller reviewed the budget with the Board. There were no comments from the public.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to adopt the 2023 Road Commission Budget as presented. Motion Carried 3-0.

The Budget Hearing was closed at 9:42.

MOTION by Commissioner Weigt seconded by Commissioner Travelbee to dispose of Chip Spreader #283. Motion Carried 3-0

Superintendent Bell advised the Board that they will continue to mow brush as long as the weather permits. Staff continues to train on how to properly use the new Skidder. Transitioning is going well and we are ready for winter.

Chairman Mayer thanked Superintendent Bell for his final update and wished him well in his retirement.

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

The meeting closed at 9:53 a.m.

Robert Mayer, Chairman

Steve Weigt, Member

Randy Travelbee, Member

Jay Miller, Manager-Clerk