

May 7, 2024 - unapproved

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Leelanau County was called to order by Chairman Robert Joyce at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 10550 E. Eckerle Road, Suttons Bay, Michigan. Present: Chair Robert Joyce, Vice Chair Jim Calhoun, Members Garth Greenan, Greg Mikowski and John Popa. Also present: Manager Brendan Mullane, Engineer Craig Brown, Fleet/Facilities Manager Tim Trudell and Finance Manager/Secretary to the Board Susan Boyd. Guests were present. Public invited to attend via GoToMeetings link.

Agenda: Popa requested that Little Traverse Lake Road be added as Item #3 under Discussions. Agenda approved as modified.

Minutes from the April 16, 2024 regular meeting – approved as presented.

Public Comments: None.

Communication Items:

1. Receipt of email received from Doug Verellen acknowledged.

Appointments: None.

Discussions:

1. Road Tour

Tentative dates were discussed with no consensus. Mullane will send out another email with proposed dates.

2. Building costs

Mullane explained that invoices received from Greene Construction were for surveying and other preliminary work. No bids were solicited because Greene is a Sourcewell approved vendor. Joyce stated that the bid process is to be followed from here on out for any construction related costs. Popa explained that proceeding with building construction plans was all part of the Strategic Plan and that it is important not to halt the process. Greenan stated that he is not comfortable proceeding with no plans or additional details laid out.

3. Little Traverse Lake Road

Popa, in reference to the documentation received from Doug Verellen, voiced concerns over parking and use of the right of way for the Heritage Trail. The group would like to do a presentation at the next board meeting. Calhoun confirmed that the National Park Service had already held public meetings regarding the trail. Mullane said that the proposed trail only uses the right of way three times and that is the road commission's only involvement. It is a legal use of the right of way and this project is well into the design process. Brown stated that it makes sense environmentally to use the right of way in the proposed locations but it is an NPS project and aside from the limited usage of the right of way does not concern the road commission. This is not funded by the road commission, and should the final design include culvert replacement, part of this cost would also be covered lowering the cost to be incurred by the road commission. Mullane said that shared use of roads is not an approved design and that a curving road such as Little Traverse Lake Road would be unsuitable anyway. Calhoun reiterated that this has nothing to do with the road commission. Greenan said the commission should be aware of the project but also realize that it has no jurisdiction over the matter. Brown clarified that there would be two parking areas for trail access and both are on NPS land.

Staff Reports:

Mullane: The last two township presentations are scheduled for this week. Staff visited Isabella and Montcalm County Road Commissions to tour their new buildings and get information on funding and designs. Greene Construction did site surveys and provided preliminary estimates and design recommendations to be included in the Facilities Asset Management Plan. Materials inventory data was provided by the drone survey service. Another inventory survey will be done in November in an effort to have more accurate inventory valuations. A US Fish & Wildlife Service grant was received for additional funding of the Crystal River culverts. Clean up day for Suttons Bay and Bingham townships has been scheduled for May 18th at the road commission facility. Displayed a picture of the wrap on truck #2001 donated by Clark Custom.

Brown: CR 614 (Gallivan Road) is scheduled to start on June 10th. There are six culverts to be replaced and will require a 28-day detour. Slag is being delivered for chip sealing and shoulder peeling is in process on chip seal and HMA project routes. Crack sealing will start on Monday. Culvert replacement on Eagle Highway started today. Crystal River crossings are on schedule with remaining funding from BIA a good possibility. Preliminary grade inspection designs for the two RTF projects are ready for review. Proposal for Cherry Homes' preliminary estimate came in under budget and was forwarded to Leelanau Township for approval. Pending approval, the estimate should be completed by the end of June hopefully.

Trudell: Driveshaft and differential repairs on truck #117 were the only major repairs resulting from winter operations. Sweeping is done with only minor repairs required for the street sweepers. A seasonal employee has been hired to help with the mowing, facility clean-up, and shop errands at both facilities. All four new plow trucks have been delivered for upfitting. The new pickups are scheduled to be built this week or next. Quarterly safety committee meeting was held on April 25th. Congratulations to Andy Mosqueda-Garcia for passing his CDL tests. A potential shop technician replacement was interviewed today. Popa inquired about the age of truck #117. It is a 2012 Peterbilt.

Boyd: Year to date MTF payments are over the 2024 budget by about \$70,000 but below the revised state projections by \$10,000. Historically payments level out over the next few months.

Old Business: None.

Public Comment: David Skjaerlund, E. Traverse Lake Road, thanked the road commission for improvements to Traverse Lake Road and asked about the timing of work on the east section of the road. Brown said no start date had been set yet but it is still scheduled for 2024. Mr. Skjaerlund clarified some of the points made in the documentation forwarded by Doug Verellen regarding the Heritage Trail.

New Business:

1. Closed session – preliminary discussion of labor negotiations.

Motion by Greenan, supported by Mikowski to move to closed session.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Popa, Calhoun, Greenan, Mikowski and Joyce. Nays: None. Motion is hereby approved,

Meeting moved to closed session at 9:57 a.m.

Meeting returned to open session at 10:37 a.m.

Motion by Calhoun, supported by Greenan to authorize manager to enter into negotiations based on discussion in today's closed session as determined to be in the best interest of the Leelanau County Road Commission.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Popa, Calhoun, Greenan, Mikowski and Joyce. Nays: None. Motion is hereby approved.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for May 21, 2024 at 9:00 am.

Staff Comments:

Mullane responded to comments made by Mr. Skjaerlund suggesting that the current design of the Heritage Trail was the result of previous opposition by the road commission. The road commission would not support shared usage of the road based on safety issues.

Commissioner Comments:

Greenan supported Mullane's comments regarding Little Traverse Lake and agreed that shared use of the roadway was inappropriate.

With no more business to conduct, Joyce adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF LEELANAU COUNTY

By _____
Robert Joyce, Chairman

Attest: _____
Susan Boyd, Secretary to the Board