

WHEREAS, given the current condition of the bridge, extensive maintenance and repair of the existing structure is not an efficient use of public funds,

WHEREAS, this bridge spans the Betsie River, a Natural Beauty River, and the deterioration of the bridge and supports detracts from the beauty of the river and surrounding area,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Benzie County Board of Road Commissioners supports this application for Critical Bridge Funds to replace the present structure, and to increase the local matching amount for this application to 20%.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None. Resolution is hereby adopted.

The following Resolution **2024-03** was offered by Commissioner Beechraft and supported by Commissioner Bowers:

WHEREAS, the Nostwick Road Bridge that crosses the Betsie River is severely deteriorated and it is under capacity by design. The weight limit is now posted at a sixteen-ton limit,

WHEREAS, given the current condition of the bridge, extensive maintenance and repair of the existing structure is not an efficient use of public funds,

WHEREAS, this bridge spans the Betsie River, a Natural Beauty River, and the deterioration of the bridge and supports detracts from the beauty of the river and surrounding area,

WHEREAS, this is a dead-end road and residents and emergency vehicles do not have a detour route available to them.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Benzie County Board of Road Commissioners supports this application for Critical Bridge Funds to replace the present structure and to eliminate the soil erosion problems at the Betsie River, and to increase the local matching amount for this application to 20%.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None. Resolution is hereby adopted.

The following Resolution **2024-04** was offered by Commissioner Beechraft and supported by Commissioner Bowers:

WHEREAS, the Carmean Road Bridge that crosses the Betsie River is severely deteriorated and it is under capacity by design,

WHEREAS, given the current condition of the bridge, extensive maintenance and repair of the existing structure is not an efficient use of public funds,

WHEREAS, this bridge spans the Betsie River, a Natural Beauty River, and the deterioration of the bridge and supports detracts from the beauty of the river and surrounding area,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Benzie County Board of Road Commissioners supports this application for Critical Bridge Funds to replace the present structure and to eliminate the soil erosion problems at the Betsie River, and to set the local matching amount for this application to 20%.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None. Resolution is hereby adopted.

Resolution 2024-05 – MDOT federal aid contract for North Manistee County Line Road project – Category D funding:

the following Resolution Number 24-05 was offered by Commissioner Bowers and supported by Commissioner Beechraft:

WHEREAS, the “Project” covers the following improvements, in Benzie County, Michigan, described as follows:

Chip seal along North Manistee County Line Road from US-31 to Kurick Road, and all together with necessary related work, and

WHEREAS, the project, or portion of the project, are being programmed with the State of Michigan, Category D funded identified as: Control Section EDD-10000, Job Number 214843, Contract No. 24-5078, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Benzie, Michigan have reached an understanding with each other regarding the performance of the project work and have set forth this understanding in the form of a written contract,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Road Commissioners of Benzie County enters into an agreement with MDOT for the purpose of fixing the rights and obligations of the parties to undertake and complete the Project and that Chairman Robert Rosa be authorized to sign the contract.

Roll call vote: Beechraft – aye; Bowers – aye and Rosa – aye. Nays: None. Resolution is hereby adopted.

Foreman salary adjustment:

Hinds stated that as staff is looking to start the interview process for the new foreman, the current foreman's salary should be adjusted to reduce the significant pay-rate gap with what similar sized road commissions in our area are paying their foremen. He therefore recommending raising the foreman salary to \$66,000.00 to close this gap.

Motion by Commissioner Beechraft supported by Commissioner Bowers to increase the Foreman salary to \$66,000.00 per year effected Monday, March 18, 2024.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

Correspondence/Informational/Discussion:

A letter dated March 6, 2024 from Robert Bendzinski of Bendzinski & Company Municipal Finance Advisors that lists options for financing the new road commission facility for the Board to consider. Bendzinski will be attending the March 28th regular meeting to discuss the options in greater detail and to answer any questions the Board may have. Further discussion ensued as to the timing of the millage request, defining the process and the possibility of hiring a consultant to be the project manager or advisor.

A letter dated February 26, 2024 from MDOT Commission Audit reporting the Road Commission will receive a \$190,898.00 refund after auditing our actual 2021 trunkline expenses against the costs submitted.

Reviewed the following financial reports: 12-31-23 MERS Statement of Fiduciary Net Position for the road commission's defined benefit retirement plan, and fiscal year to date report showing our MTF receipts which are running ahead of last year.

Discussed updating several policies that should be reviewed and updated to include disciplinary steps if the policy is violated. Also included was a commissioner Code of Conduct that Chairman Rosa suggested the Board should review and consider adopting at the next meeting. in the event a policy.

Public Input: None.

Board Round Table: None

Hinds reported receiving a letter dated February 27, 2024 from TPOAM Business Agent Doug Wortley requesting to open negotiations for a new union agreement. The present agreement is due to expire on June 30, 2024. Hinds then suggested going into closed session to discuss the request.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to go into closed session to discuss union contract negotiating strategy with staff.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

With that, the Board went into closed session at 11:10 a.m.

At 12:05 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

Motion by Commissioner Beechraft supported by Commissioner Bowers to appoint Manager Hinds, Superintendent Fasel and Finance Manager Nedow to represent the Board in negotiating a new agreement with the TPOAM union membership.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None. – Motion is hereby adopted.

With no more business to discuss, Chairman Rosa adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Robert Rosa, Chairman

Joel Nedow, Clerk