The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Benzie County was called to order by Chairman Rosa at the Road Commission office in Honor, Michigan on Thursday **February 22, 2024** at 9:30 a.m.

Present:	Chairman Robert Rosa
	Member Paul Beechraft
	Finance Manager/Clerk Joe Nedow

Vice-Chairman James Bowers Manager Troy Hinds

Guests attending: County Commissioners Gary Sauer, Benzie County Drain Commissioner Edward Hoopterp, Shaun Johnson and Rose Roelofs.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The February 8, 2024 minutes were approved.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to pay bills #53267 thru #53301 for \$98,498.97 and approve Payrolls #7 and #8 for \$75,827.09. Discussion: None. Ayes: Commissioners Rosa, Bowers and Beechraft. Nays: None - Motion is hereby adopted.

Cash Summary: Reviewed as presented.

Work Reports: Manager Hinds provided updates on the following: The deterioration to the Fewins Road bridge abutment was found to be in better condition than originally thought, and plans how to reinforce the abutment is under way; update on various road projects requested by Inland Township; Hinds stated that the culverts at the CR-669 hatchery will utilize the less-expensive UV lining option which will include re-aligning the culverts and reinforcing the headwall; chip seal bids have gone out, and frost laws are still in effect as temperatures are expected to continue rise and fall in the weeks to come; the foreman help wanted ad has been posted internally and in the local newspaper, and the Platte School demo project is expected to ramp up as soon as the asbestos and lead paint abatement process has concluded.

Standing guest: County Commissioner Gary Sauer – Presented an oral report for items/issues the Benzie County Board of Commissioners is dealing with as well as events impacting local government from around Benzie County.

Public Input: None:

Appointments: Met with Benzie County Drain Commissioner Edward Hoogterp to discuss a proposal to transfer ownership of the Crystal Lake Outlet Dam property and the Crystal Lake Park property to Benzie County (Park property is currently lease to the County). In a letter dated February 14, 2024 Hoogterp noted the while the County Drain Commissioner has taken responsibility for maintaining the dam using County funds and management of the lake level, title to the property remained with the Road Commission. And as the structure is due for maintenance, it would be easier to obtain grants if the county assumed ownership.

As for the park property, a recent acquisition has extended the boundary of the county's Railroad Point Natural Area so the property in question is adjacent to the Road Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be developing a new Management Plan for the RRPNA this year and is interested in incorporating the Road Commission parcel permanently into the natural area.

Motion by Commissioner Beechraft supported by Commissioner Bowers to encourage Hoogterp to continue his efforts with transferring ownership of both properties (Crystal Lake Outlet Dam and Crystal Lake Park) from the Road Commission to Benzie County.

Discussion: None.

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

Item Before the Board:

Motion to award paving bid for packages A and B:

Sealed bids from Team Elmers and Molon Asphalt were opened and read aloud on February 13, 2024 as follows:

Bid package A: Team Elmers - \$854,549.00 and Molon Asphalt - \$989,195.50 Bid package B: Team Elmers - \$231,822.00 and Molon Asphalt - \$234,489.00 Recommendation from staff is to award both packages to the lowest bidder.

Motion by Commissioner Beechraft and supported by Commissioner Bowers to accept the bids tendered by Team Elmers, who submitted the low bids for paving packages A and B as doing so would be in the best interests of the Benzie County Road Commission.

Discussion: None.

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

Bid award – MDOT M-115 concrete curb and spillway project:

At the request by MDOT, staff took bids for this MDOT project with two contractors submitting proposals: Team Elmers for \$18,900.00 and Kerby's Backhoe Service LLC for \$15,400.00.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to accept the bid tendered by Kerby's Backhoe Service (as recommended by MDOT) for the M-115 concrete curb and spillway project. Discussion: None.

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

Board feedback - new facility design plans:

The Board reviewed preliminary drawings for the proposed new Road Commission facility. No objections were offered to the design plans and staff stated they will continue working toward a final design with the Road Commission's architectural firm.

Manager salary: six-month adjustment:

Nedow provided a tabulation of Managers salaries for similar sized road commissions in our area for the Board to use as a reference tool when considering Hind's raise.

Motion by Commissioner Rosa supported by Commissioner Bowers (honor the Board's pledge to Hinds when he was hired last September to review his salary after six months) and to increase the Manager's salary to \$90,000.00 starting February 26, 2024.

Discussion: none.

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

Correspondence/Informational/Discussion: None.

Public Input: None.

Board Round Table: None

With no more business to discuss, Chairman Rosa adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Robert Rosa, Chairman

Joel Nedow, Clerk