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 **March 28, 2024** at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chairman Robert Rosa Vice-Chairman James Bowers

Member Paul Beechraft Manager Troy Hinds

Finance Manager/Clerk Joe Nedow

Guests attending: County Commissioners Gary Sauer and Robert Bendzinski.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The March 14, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with one typographical error to be corrected.

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to pay bills #53347 thru #53386 for \$112,288.49 and approve Payrolls #12 and #13 for \$72,862.82.

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:

- -Platte River school abatement has been completed and further demolition is on standby until the electrical service is shut off.
- -Safety Committee: brush chipper safety training will be scheduled for the road crew late this spring.
- -Hill cut/tree clearing on CR-610 is near completion.
- -Hinds reported meeting with Engineer Joe Williams of Gourdie-Fraser and Benzonia Township Supervisor Jason Bernard at Old Platte Road to discuss the scope of the proposed drainage project. Hinds noted the road right of way width in some places is limited to twenty feet significantly restricting drainage improvement options.
- -Union contract negotiations are scheduled to begin next week.

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: At 10:00 a.m. the Board met with Robert Bendzinski of Bendzinski & Company Municipal Finance Advisors to discuss funding options for the proposed construction of a new Road Commission facility. Discussion centered on requesting Benzie County place a millage proposal on the ballot asking voters to approve the County issuing General Obligation Unlimited Tax Bonds. Doing so would enable the County to levy annually the necessary millage required each year to meet the debt service requirement without limitations as to rate or amount.

Further discussion then ensued as to timing of the millage proposal and for the County hiring of municipal finance advisor and bond counsel. Bendzinski stated that if the Road Commission Board wants the millage proposal to be included on the November 5, 2024 election ballot, the County Board would need to approve the ballot language (including the maximum amount of the bonds to be issued, the maximum duration of the bonds, the purpose, the first year's anticipated millage rate and the average annual millage rate over the life of the bonds) by August 13, 2024.

In order to proceed, the Road Commission would need to have engineered drawings completed along with a reliable construction estimate necessary for the ballot proposal. As the Benzie County Board is due to meet on April 23rd, it was also suggested the Road Commission Board may wish to be included on the County Board's agenda to introduce the proposal, and Bendzinski offered to attend this meeting to answer any questions that may be asked.

Item Before the Board:

Award substitute calcium chloride bid:

Hinds reported the contractor who awarded the calcium chloride bid this year notified staff of a possible industry-wide supply shortage this spring/summer. To meet the projected calcium chloride demand of their customers, Great Lakes Chloride is offering a reduced 35% blend as a substitute quoted \$0.718/per gallon. To be fair, staff requested a quote for the same material from the other contractor who had submitted a bid this spring, which was higher than the revised bid provided by Great Lakes Chloride.

Motion by Commissioner Beechraft and supported by Commissioner Bowers to accept the substitute calcium chloride bid of \$0.718/per gallon (35% solution) provided by Great Lakes Chloride

Discussion: None.

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

Road Commissioner Code of Conduct:

Correspondence/Informational/Discussion:

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to adopt the "Road Commissioners Code of Conduct" as recommended by the County Road Association of Michigan.

Discussion: None.

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

| Public Input: None. | |
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| Board Round Table: None | |
| With no more business to discuss, Chairman Rosa adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m. | |
| Robert Rosa, Chairman | Joel Nedow, Clerk |