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 **April 25, 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, County Administrator Katie Zeits, Rose Lynn, Eric VanDussen and Robert Bendzinski (via phone).

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to amend today's agenda to include a discussion concerning efforts to transfer ownership of the Crystal Lake Park property currently leased to the County. Discussion: None.

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

The revised agenda was then approved as presented.

The April 11, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Motion by Commissioner Beechraft supported by Commissioner Bowers to pay bills #53421 thru #53454 for \$196,744.96 and approve Payrolls #16 and #17 for \$60,389.16. 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:

-Fewins Roads bridge: steel for reinforcing the abutment has been delivered and the seasonal portions of Fewins and Oakly Roads for bypassing the construction site completed; awaiting inspection/approval by EMS. When asked, Hinds estimated the temporary bridge closure to shore up the abutments should be minimal, lasting a few days at most.

-The three Western Star cab & chassis trucks ordered for this year are not anticipated to be built until late this year or early next due to production issues with the transmission supplier. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Bowers asked Hinds to see if it would be possible to change our transmission specification from automated to manual transmissions to see if that would result in a quicker delivery date.

-Hinds reported Isaac Hohman has been promoted to the position of foreman effective this week.

-Reported receiving an informal inquiry from Crystal Downs County Club about the possibility of installing flashing lights at crossing spots on Sutter Road as an alternative to relocating the road. Hinds stated he advised the proposed locations be consolidated to a single location and any flashing lights would have to be installed off the road right of way as a warning to pedestrians/golf carts crossing the road of oncoming traffic.

-First brine application is scheduled for mid-May, depending on the contractor's schedule.

-Recently attended an Ironman meeting scheduled for this September. Staff is waiting for approval from the various townships where the race will be run before the permit can be issued.

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: Heard comments from Eric VanDussen. VanDussen had provided public input at the April 23, 2024 County Board meeting regarding the Road Commission's request to include a bond-millage proposal on the November 2024 general election ballot and that the process should be overseen by the Benzie County Building Authority. VanDussen stated that during a break in that meeting he had identified himself as the Chairman of the Building Authority to various road commission representatives but is here today to clarify the Building Authority had in fact lapsed into non-existence when the Maples Long Term Care facility bonds were re-financed. He further added that his comments were not meant to impede progress for pursuing a new road commission facility, but he personally would like to see the County oversee the process including obtaining design plans which he feels should go through a bidding process.

County Administrator Zeits offered her thoughts on VanDussen's comments. She confirmed the Building Authority did in fact lapse and is no longer in existence. The process the Road Commission used is similar to the process followed by the County when the County Center was remodeled a few years back.

Appointments: At approximately 10:00 a.m. the Board spoke to Robert Bendzinski of Bendzinski & Company, Municipal Finance Advisors via the phone to discuss the current statutes governing the need to involve the Building Authority. Bendzinski confirmed Zeits statement that Building Authority has expired and answered several questions posed by Chairman Rosa, Zeits and staff and he also affirmed that the final request for quote (RFQ) for final design plans, selecting a project manager, and obtaining construction bids would be done by the County with input from the Road Commission. Zeits stated that the Road Commission's bond millage request will be on the June 11th County Board agenda for discussion.

Item Before the Board:

Follow up discussion – Crystal Lake Park property transfer to County:

Discussed the pending Crystal Lake Park property transfer to Benzie County with County Administrator Zeits, who had raised concerns that the acquisition of the property could subject the County to future ongoing maintenance costs. As the Board assured her that this was not the case, Zeits affirmed her support for the proposed transfer.

Request to amend the 2024 Road Commission budget - Revenues:

Motion by Commissioner Bowers supported by Commissioner Beechraft to amend the 2024 Road Commission budget by increasing State-Audit Refund revenue by \$191,000.00 to recognize the refund recently received from the State of Michigan for the 2021 trunkline maintenance audit.

Discussion: None.

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

Public Input: None.

Correspondence/Informational/Discussion: None.

Board Round Table: Discussed the ramifications of including the bond-millage proposal on the November 2024 general election ballot.

With no more business to discuss, Chairman Rosa adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Robert Rosa, Chairman

Joel Nedow, Clerk