

# Meeting Minutes for the March 13, 2026, – Board Meeting

3536 S. US Highway 27, St. Johns, MI 48879 @ 2:00pm



**Attendees:** Michael Frederick; Karla Gurski; Kevin Holt; Douglas Steffen; Gail Watkins; Bob Showers; and members of the public present.

## Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

## Approval of February 12, 2026, Minutes

Motion to approve the February 12, 2026, meeting minutes, as presented.

Move: Commissioner Holt, Second: Commissioner Watkins, Status: Passed

## Communications

Motion to accept the communications and place them on file.

Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

## Information from Commissioner Showers

Commissioner Showers Reported:

- A special Board meeting was held yesterday regarding the potential discontinuation of Planning and Zoning and addressing the budget shortfall. The ten townships currently participating in Planning and Zoning have not contributed financially to the program in its 78-year history, and contributions are not required by the County. The Board voted 3–4 to continue Planning and Zoning. The position expressed was not opposition to the program itself, but rather that the participating townships should contribute toward the budget shortfall. John will work on developing an equitable payment agreement for the townships, which is viewed as a step in the right direction.

## Public Comments

- Mr. Hurtekant commented on addressing the Planning and Zoning budget shortfall, suggesting a possible capped contribution plan for the participating townships. He noted hearing discussion that some townships may consider forming their own planning commissions, which could be to their advantage. He noted that addressing the issue now allows the townships to determine what option best serves their interests and described the proposal as a reasonable compromise.
- The Board also appointed two individuals to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission.

## Director of Finance Report

Ms. Gurski reported:

- The auditors were on site the last week of February, everything went smoothly. They plan to be at our April meeting to present the 2025 financials.
- March MTF, which reflects January fuel and totalled, \$998,484.
- Starting to work on the 2025 Annual Report.
- Our OPEB AVV is complete, Chris Veenstra, from Watkins Ross, will be at our May meeting to review with the board.
- With ceasing the additional payment to the MERS Surplus account and transferring funds from the Surplus account to the DB Divisions, reducing the ARC in 2025, significantly reduced our fringe wage.

- Nationwide added access to a third-party student loan assistance program, called Savi. This helps participants explore repayment and forgiveness options.

Motion to receive the financials and place on file.

Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt Status: Passed

Approval of Vouchers:

Payroll: #92638- #92641 advices

Vouchers: #69196- #691 including ACH

Total: \$1,151,952.31

Motion to approve the vouchers as presented.

Move: Commissioner Holt Second: Commissioner Watkins Status: Passed

## **Managing Director Report & Engineering Update**

Mr. Steffen reported:

- Spring weight restrictions remain in effect. The Road Commission has received many questions about when they will be lifted; however, conditions remain too wet at this time. Staff will continue to monitor the weather and road conditions. Winter maintenance activity has been relatively quiet over the past few weeks.
- The County Road Association (CRA) Highway Conference will take place on March 25 at the Lansing Center.
- Mr. Steffen noted he will be on vacation beginning March 26 through the following week.

Engineering Update:

- Bids for the Chandler Road project were received yesterday, and staff are currently reviewing the line items.
- Asphalt bids for county paving projects are expected to be received next week.
- Phase two of the Airport Road project is scheduled to begin on the 23rd. Public notices have been sent, and the signal at Clark has been installed.
- Clark Road was submitted for the Federal Aid Buyout program, and the Road Commission has been notified that the funding was approved.
- There have been no new development updates since the last meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Tabled: Approval of Revised Policies: Discuss and take action on remaining policies previously tabled**

Motion to remove the agenda item "Approval of Revised Polices: Discuss and Take Action on Select Policies" from the table.

Move: Commissioner Watkins Second: Commissioner Holt Status: Passed

Motion to approve the revised policies, No.1, 58, and 79, as presented.

Move: Commissioner Watkins Second: Commissioner Holt Status: Passed

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Resolution for 2028 MDOT Local Bridge Program Funding**

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Frederick seconded by Commissioner Holt and passed with 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

**WHERE AS**, the condition of the bridges listed below have deteriorated to such an extent that replacement, rehabilitation, or preventative maintenance is necessary, and

**WHERE AS**, the budget of the Clinton County Road Commission will not allow replacement, rehabilitation, or preventative maintenance of these bridges without additional funds from other sources,

**THEREFORE BE IT NOW RESOLVED** that the Clinton County Board of Road Commissioners request local bridge funds for replacement, rehabilitation, or preventive maintenance of the following bridges (Listed in order).

Proposed Structure Replacement Project	Structure Number	Proposed Year
1. Shepardsville Road over Maple River	1936	2029
2. Centerline Road over Stony Creek	1953	2029
3. Walker Road over Maple River	2004	2029

### **Approval of 2026 Cost Share**

Motion to approve the 2026 Township Cost Share as presented, noting that Greenbush Township's portion of cost share will be applied on primary road projects in their township and not go into the local match, as a onetime courtesy.

Move: Commissioner Watkins Second: Commissioner Holt Status: Passed

### **Approval to Award Bids for 2026 Materials**

Motion to award to all bidders based upon price & availability for the following materials/services:

- As Needed Excavation
- Tires
- Dust Control
- Sign Posts
- Blades
- Plastic Pipe
- Erosion Control Materials
- CMP
- Catch Basin Cleanout
- Hot Patch
- Cold Patch
- Signs
- Pavement Marking
- Symbol Marking
- Asphalt Base Crush & Shape

Move: Commissioner Holt Second: Commissioner Watkins Status: Passed

### **Approval to Purchase Iron Worker for the Shop**

Motion to approve the purchase of an iron worker for the shop from Purity Cylinder Gases on a one-time basis without soliciting bids, despite exceeding the threshold in the Purchasing Policy that would normally require bid solicitation.

Move: Commissioner Watkins Second: Commissioner Holt Status: Passed

### **Approval to Purchase Zero Turn Mower**

The Board considered bids received for a zero-turn mower. Commissioner Holt disclosed that the apparent low bidder, Capital Equipment, is a business he owns. Commissioner Holt abstained from discussion and voting on the matter. Upon motion and support, the Board voted to award the bid to Capital Equipment, the lowest responsible bidder.

Move: Commissioner Watkins Second: Commissioner Frederick Status: Passed

## **Approval to Purchase a Used Aerial Lift Truck**

Motion to approve the purchase of a used aerial lift truck not to exceed \$80,000.

Move: Commissioner Holt Second: Commissioner Watkins Status: Passed

## **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Watkins commended staff for the successful township meetings and their continued collaboration with the townships.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Move: Commissioner Holt, Second: Commissioner Watkins, Status: Passed

  
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Karla Gurski, Finance Director/Clerk