Meeting Minutes for the October 15, 2026, – Board Meeting

3536 S. US Highway 27, St. Johns, MI 48879 @ 9:00am

Attendees: Michael Frederick; Gail Watkins; Kevin Holt; Douglas Steffen, Karla Gurski; & Commissioner Bob Showers

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including approval of the August 25, 2026, August 27, 2026, September 16, 2026, and September 17, 2026, meeting minutes.
Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

Communications

Motion to accept the communications and place them on file.
Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

Information from Commissioner Bob Showers

Commissioner Showers reported:

- Steve Lonier was selected from the seven applicants for the County Board position. There was a consensus that Steve was the best choice. He is a fifth-generation farmer who farms approximately 4,800 acres, including 3,700 acres of dairy farming. He attended his first meeting last week.
- With the passing of the Dewitt Township Supervisor, Brian Ross, Tom Hamp is serving in the position until November 20, when the temporary appointment expires. Tom plans to run as a write-in candidate, and the outcome of the election will determine what happens next.
- The county is still looking to fill the Deputy Administrator position. John Fuentes is working to identify a suitable candidate.

Public Comments

Mr. Ely, representing AIS, stated he had met with Doug and the crew to discuss motor graders. He was available today to answer any questions regarding financing or equipment.

Director of Finance Report

Ms. Gurski reported:

1. MTF for September, which was for August fuel, was $1,328,772.49.
2. The second NRF disbursement was also received, totaling $771,989.07.
3. CRA hosted a webinar last week regarding some updates to the NRF program. Discussion included the anticipated number of additional payments in 2026, with the general consensus being that there will be at least one additional payment, with the possibility of two. CRA is still confident in annual $420 million marijuana wholesale tax that is expected for roads & infrastructure.
4. Working on 2027 budget line items.
5. Beginning to receive 2027 health renewal rates. Acrisure is working on active and pre-65 renewals, and a quote from The Pool-Western Michigan is pending.
6. The 2024 Trunkline Audit was received, and the Road Commission is expected to receive a refund of approximately $60,000 from MDOT.

Motion to receive the financials and place on file.
Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

Approval of Vouchers:
Payroll: #92678- 92681#advices
Vouchers: #69385- #69406 including ACH
Total: $3,512,437.89
Motion to approve the vouchers as presented.

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

Managing Director Report & Engineering Update

Mr. Steffen reported:

- Township projects are going well, with most completed. There is one Bath Township subdivision project that remains and is expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks.
- The Bingham Township solar farm application remains active and has been submitted to the state. Legal counsel helped draft the road agreement, which has been sent to RWE for review.
- Since our last board meeting, we have attended Lebanon, Dallas, and Duplain Township meetings.
- Upcoming meetings and events:
  - All Employee & Retiree Picnic – November 10
  - Township Officers Meeting – November 17
  - Seven County Meeting – next Tuesday at Montcalm
  - MDOT Traffic Summit – December 14
  - Annual Safety Day – Wednesday, October 21
- MCRCSIP appointed Charlie Pike and Wendy Hardt as interim representatives.
- Following a fatal employee accident at Eaton CRC, staff were reminded of the importance of safety. The Road Commission plans to purchase portable flaggers to reduce employee exposure on higher-speed, higher-traffic roads.
- Advertising for two truck driver positions due to retirements.

Engineering Update:

- The Chandler Road project has been at a slight standstill for the past couple of weeks due to groundwater issues near the sanitary well installation. Residents will receive a project update.
- MDOT is said to be on track for completing the culvert project just north of Price Road on Business US-27.
- Price Road paving project is nearly complete, with shoulder work remaining. Work is expected to be finished Friday, with the road reopening early next week.
- No new projects have started with the countywide broadband project. A draft BEAD grant contract was received, with approximately $17,000 expected to help offset project mitigation costs.

Approval of 2027 Grader Financing: Purchase vs. Lease

Motion to approve the purchase of a Motor Grader from low bidder, MacAllister, for 2027.
Move: Commissioner Holt, Second: Commissioner Watkins, Status: Passed

Commissioner Comments

Adjournment

With no further business coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.
Move: Commissioner Watkins, Second: Commissioner Holt, Status: Passed

Karla Gurski

Karla Gurski, Finance Director/Clerk