

LORNE HAASE, CHAIRMAN
JOHN OKOREN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
HAROLD FALAN, MEMBER
ALAN D. COOPER, MANAGER
ANDREA HERMAN, FINANCE AND BUSINESS MANAGER
KARL F. HANSON, P.E., COUNTY HIGHWAY ENGINEER
MARK HURLBURT, SUPERINTENDENT
DONALD PATNODE, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

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WEXFORD COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE AND EFFICIENT ROAD SYSTEM

Regular Meeting

February 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Lorne Haase at 9:00 a.m. at the Wexford County Road Commission office.

Present:

Commissioners: Messrs. Haase, Falan and Okoren
Manager: Alan Cooper
Engineer: Karl Hanson
Superintendent(s): Mark Hurlburt and Donald Patnode
Finance and Business Manager: Andrea Herman

Visitor: Les Housler, Lorri King, Lonny Lutke, Jason Lutke, Wes Windover

A motion was made by Commissioner Okoren and seconded by Commissioner Falan to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 27, 2016, as corrected. Roll call on the motion: Commissioner Falan, yes; Commissioner Haase, yes; Commissioner Okoren, yes. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Falan and seconded by Commissioner Okoren to approve the minutes from the special meeting of February 3, 2016, as presented. Roll call on the motion: Commissioner Okoren, yes; Commissioner Haase, yes; Commissioner Falan, yes. Motion unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Lonny Lutke thanked the Board for taking the time to see him. As a fellow Road Commissioner, President of the Timbermen's Association and Vice President of Lutke Logging he has visited with many area Road Commissions. His concern is the practice of charging loggers for driveway permits for an existing driveway. He feels it is unfair to charge one entity and not charge propane haulers, garbage haulers, etc.

Previous Business: None.

New Business:

Attorney Lorri King addressed the Board regarding Sundstrom Pine Knoll. Her client, the Wetherall's, want the Road Commission to accept the road if it is brought up to Road Commission standards. Ms. King presented a timeline of events and drawings of the current property. The staff will have a recommendation for the Board at the next meeting.

Wes Windover from Biewer Forestry stated that in the past we were the best Road Commission to work with and always addressed their concerns. He stated that communication with Superintendent Mark Hurlburt was still good. He voiced concerns over more road maintenance becoming their responsibility on timber cuts and that they had hauled in 166 yards of gravel on 17 Rd. last year. Mr. Hanson stated that 17 Rd. was destroyed due to continued hauling by the loggers after receiving two inches of rain with no communication to the road commission of the dangerous conditions that were caused. Mr. Hanson stated that the road had to be closed, on three separate occasions, due to hazardous conditions to the travelling public due to the irresponsibility of the logging truck drivers. Mr. Hanson reiterated that he told Mr. Windover that he should keep the road standards to what he would want his 16 year old daughter, in his wife's brand new car to drive on with no knowledge of any road damage. Mr. Housler also mentioned that the drivers were paid by the load, his drivers are paid a salary. Paying by the load encourages drivers to drive fast causing additional damage and causes them to continue hauling after road damage has occurred. An agreement was reached that they would travel at a very low rate of speed, stop hauling immediately if it rained, and notify the Road Commission as soon as any damage to the road appeared. The Road Commission is not at their beck and call, the loggers are responsible to pay for road damage. If the Road Commission is not able to make the necessary repairs immediately, the logger shall make, or hire a contractor to make, the necessary road restorations immediately after being notified by the Road Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Okoren and seconded by Commissioner Falan to award the Watson Pit timber bid to Housler Sawmill in the amount of \$30,951.00. Roll call on the motion: Commissioner Haase, yes; Commissioner Falan, yes; Commissioner Okoren, yes. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Cooper updated the Board on a seasonal road upgrade request, made by Steve Cunningham, for 48 ½ Rd. in Cherry Grove Township. The section is West of 37 Rd. and also encompasses snowmobile trail #35. Mr. Cooper is concerned for the safety of snowmobiles if we only require the minimum width upgrade. He is recommending a 24 ft. travelled portion of the roadway with necessary drainage improvements, an additional 10-12 ft. cleared of stumps, all wetland permitting and mitigation, along with any other expense, will be the responsibility of the property owner, along with providing an easement to the Road Commission for our truck to turn around. The preliminary estimate for this upgrade is approximately \$50,000.00. A detailed estimate will be prepared if the property owner decides to proceed with improvements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Okoren and seconded by Commissioner Falan to approve the Cadillac Jeepers' request to close Industrial Drive on April 30, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Roll call on the motion: Commissioner Falan, yes; Commissioner Okoren, yes; Commissioner Haase, yes. Motion unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Okoren and seconded by Commissioner Haase to approve the Manager's contract as presented. Roll call on the motion: Commissioner Okoren, yes; Commissioner Haase, yes; Commissioner Falan, no. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Okoren and seconded by Commissioner Falan at 11:01 a.m. to enter in to closed session to discuss union negotiations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Okoren and seconded by Commissioner Falan at 11:12 a.m. to leave closed session.

A motion was by Commissioner Falan and seconded by Commissioner Haase to present the OPEB buyout proposal to the Union group with the Administrative group electing to accept proposal as presented. Roll call on the motion: Commissioner Okoren, yes; Commissioner Haase, yes; Commissioner Falan, yes. Motion unanimously approved.

Public Comment: None.


Ms. Herman informed the Board that the auditors will be here March 3, 2016.

Mr. Haase told the Superintendents to tell the crew they were doing a good job.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Regular		
Vouchers	1/25/16	161,963.68
	2/10/16	88,509.44
	2/19/16	4,000.00
Vouchers HRA	1/26/16	792.63
	2/2/16	213.84
	2/10/16	2,089.10
	2/15/16	90.00
Payroll	2/4/16	68,747.55
	2/18/16	70,074.02
Total		\$ 396,480.26


Lorne Haase, Chairman


Andrea Herman, Finance and Business Manager