



TEXAS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

JOINT MEETING WITH THE ROAD COMMISSION OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY

The Committee of the Whole meeting commenced at approximately 5:00 p.m. Managing Director Joanna Johnson of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) introduced Road Commissioners: Chair Dan Moyle, Vice Chair Deborah Bucholtz, Commissioner David Pawloski and also Project Superintendent Mark Worden.

Mr. Worden provided a list of 2018 Local Road Projects for Texas Township, PASER ratings for Kalamazoo County and Texas Township specifically, and an associated map depicting the ratings. It was noted that the map did not include the new ratings for roads that were improved in 2018. Mr. Worden also provided data on road funding, RCKC awards and opportunities for collaboration.

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Worden addressed questions from the Board concerning the road closures on S Avenue and 8th Street. Ms. Johnson responded that they hope to have at least one lane on both roads open prior to "snow fall". Additional questions regarding responses to service requests, temporary signs in the ROW, and sidewalks on the south side of the 9th Street Bridge were discussed along with the possibility of improving the culvert on 8th Street this year to allow for the pumping of water from Crooked Lake to Bass Lake, pending a DEQ Permit, instead of waiting until 2019 CIP with the HMA overlay project. Trustee Loeks asked about the feasibility of adding more road projects this year. Mr. Worden responded that due to the weather and availability of contractors, additional projects were unlikely.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Hinkle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., inviting all to join Clerk Linda Kerr in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Kerr called the roll, and the following Board Members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Tim Brown, Trustee Nick Loeks, Trustee Wendy Mazer, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor John Hinkle and Clerk Linda Kerr. Also present was Superintendent Julie VanderWiere, Engineer Tom Wheat, Planner Steve Deisler, Fire Chief Chad Tackett and Deputy Clerk Emily Beutel. In addition, Kalamazoo County Commissioner Dale Shugars, Director of Kalamazoo County's Office of Emergency Management Mike Corfman, along with approximately 70 interested persons were in attendance.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent VanderWiere updated the Board on the following items:

- On Tuesday, September 5th, Jim Pearson, Matt Mistretta, Frank Zlomek, Zak Zlomek, Matt Dawson, Jennie Miller, Collin Miller, Taylor Miller, Morgan Miller, Steve Deisler, Trish Roberts and she worked with City of Kalamazoo personnel to fill 600 sandbags, which were gone by 10:00 a.m. the next morning.
- Township Administration and Staff spent considerable time this past two weeks addressing the unprecedented flooding:
 - Met with key stake holders and Senator Margaret O'Brien to debrief her on the gravity of the issue.
 - Contacted Congressman Fred Upton to ask for assistance.
 - Contacted Representative Brandt Iden to ask for assistance.
 - Contacted Kalamazoo County Commissioner Dale Shugars to ask for assistance.
 - Contacted City of Kalamazoo Public Services Director, James Baker, to debrief him on the issue and ask for assistance.
 - Created a Boundary Map of the Flood Affected Area.



- 49 ▪ Created Flood Assessment Survey and posted on Township Website, printing and mailing to
- 50 approximately 900 resident identified within the problem area.
- 51 ▪ Worked with the City of Kalamazoo to have a special sandbag filling system brought in to fill
- 52 sandbags as well as sand. Fire Department personnel and Township Staff volunteered after
- 53 work hours to fill approximately 600 sandbags.
- 54 ▪ Staff also worked again with volunteers filling an additional 400 sandbags on Friday, Septem-
- 55 ber 7.
- 56 ▪ Engineer Wheat and she inspected Bass Lake and the outlet structure on both ends of the
- 57 lake.
- 58 ▪ Engineer Wheat and she went to Treasure Island to inspect the flooding and discuss the con-
- 59 cern for the sanitary sewer system that was under approximately 14” of water with residents.
- 60 There was also concern about the amount of water on the street in this area of Treasure Is-
- 61 land for public safety.
- 62 ▪ The City of Kalamazoo Public Services contacted the Township in reference to the Treasure
- 63 Island lift station being overcome with water. They discovered through CCTV that several
- 64 sump pumps are directly connected to the sanitary sewer system, which is illegal due to the
- 65 critical impact it can have on the system. If the lift system is overcome, it will cause the sewer
- 66 system to back up into the homes of those on the line, which could create a catastrophic is-
- 67 sue. We will be working with the City of Kalamazoo to contact those residents to have them
- 68 disconnect their sump pumps.

69 Superintendent VanderWiere explained the Flood Assessment Survey that is being conducted
70 and that the survey is available on the township’s web page, www.texestownship.org/flood-assessment,
71 and was also mailed to approximately 900 residents. She stressed the importance of completing the
72 survey and anyone who has had any damage, yard or otherwise, should complete the survey with as
73 much information as possible. Although some damage may still be undiscovered because it is
74 underwater, it is important to complete the survey providing as much information as possible.

75 Engineer Wheat explained that the survey needs to indicate that the damage due to flooding is
76 greater than the cost to fix the problem in order to qualify for the FEMA grant.

77 Trustee Loeks indicated that the Study will also be a part of the short-term solution. Until we know
78 what is causing the problem, there is no way to determine a solution. It will then be dependent upon
79 what the DEQ will allow. Any solution needs to show that problems will not be created downstream.

80
81 **PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING/COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

82 County Commissioner Dale Shugars addressed the Board and residents, inviting residents to
83 attend the County Commission meeting next Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m., as the Drain
84 Commission has been asked to update on the flooding. He explained that flooding is not is not central to
85 Texas Township, it is happening everywhere. He stressed the importance that any solution cannot create
86 problems downstream, emphasizing the damage suffered earlier in the year by residents and businesses
87 in the City of Kalamazoo.

88
89 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

90 Steve Barry of 8482 Thornwood questioned when the Study would be completed and how the
91 results will be disseminated.

92 Russ Walters of 7414 Field Bay thanked those who participated in the sand bagging. He
93 stressed that the FEMA Grant “Letter of Intent” is due the middle of September and questioned if the
94 Township will be ready.

95 Leonard Bosma of 7060 Eagle Heights also thanked those individuals that helped with the
96 sandbags and Superintendent VanderWiere in particular. He reported that three more homes were
97 breached this week.



98 Mike Brian of 7862 Finnagen suggested the Township reach out to other municipalities that have
99 experienced flooding and find out what they have done. Flooding is a nationwide problem, and there
100 must be other communities that we can contact and gain some insightful information.
101

102 **ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

103 Motion by Boven, seconded by Mazer, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda with the
104 addition of Bills for \$99,412.44 under **General Consent Agenda**.
105

106 **APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA**

107 Motion by Hinkle, seconded by Brown, motion carried, to approve the General Consent Agenda
108 consisting of:

- 109 • Minutes of the August 27, 2018 meeting as submitted;
- 110 • Bills for \$99,412.44;
- 111 • Payroll for \$24,398.05;
- 112 • Correspondence – Letter to Congressman Fred Upton regarding flooding.
113

114 **BUSINESS**

115 *Tabled*

116 There was no tabled business.
117

118 *New*

119 Flooding Task Force

120 Superintendent VanderWiere explained that in an effort to find a solution to the flooding and high
121 water table issues, there have been several meetings with the Lake Associations, Prein & Newhof, Drain
122 Commission, MDEQ, RCKC, City of Kalamazoo and Senator Margret O'Brien. There has also been a
123 consultation with Representative Brand Iden and Kalamazoo County Commissioner Dale Shugars, and a
124 letter was sent to Congressman Upton. At one of those meetings, it was recommended that a Flooding
125 Task Force be created.

126 The objective of the task force is to collaboratively, through public and private resources, develop
127 a short and long term solution. She is recommending the following individuals be appointed to the Task
128 Force:

129 Senator Margaret O'Brien	Trustee Nick Loeks, Eagle Lake Rep
130 Tom Smith & Tom Wheat of Prein & Newhof	Trustee Tim Brown, Crooked Lake Rep
131 Jeff VanBelle, Deputy Drain Commissioner	Rep from Crooked Lake Association (Jim
132 RCKC Representative	Roberts, Russ Walters
133 City of Kalamazoo Rep	Rep from Eagle Lake Association (Amy Coon
134 MDEQ Representative	Len Bosma)
135 Supervisor John Hinkle	Pine Island Rep (Dian Latora)
136 Vineyards Rep (Pete Caroselli)	Mike Corfman, County Emergency Manager
137 Superintendent Julie VanderWiere	MDOT Representative

138
139 Motion by Boven, seconded by Mazer, motion carried, to appoint a task force comprised of the
140 individuals recommended by Superintendent VanderWiere. Superintendent VanderWiere stated that she
141 will organize the first meeting which will be the week of September 24th.
142

143 L-4029 2018 Millage Rate

144 Clerk Kerr explained that the L-4029 for was presented to the Board earlier in the year for
145 informational purposes and must be formally adopted. The proposed millage rate is provided by the
146 Kalamazoo County Equalization Department and represents a reduction of .09998 in the township's
147 operating millage rate and extra voted fire millage due to the Headlee Millage Reduction. The proposed



148 2018 millage rate will be 0.8473 reduced from 0.8475 in 2017. The extra voted fire millage for 2018 is
149 0.4935 reduced from 0.4936 mills.

150 Motion by Loeks, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to adopt the 2018 township operating
151 millage rate of **0.8473** and the extra voted fire millage of **0.4935**.
152

153 Backup Electrical Inspector

154 Superintendent VanderWiere explained that the Building Department would like to add a back-up
155 electrical inspector on staff and recommended the hiring of William Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox currently works
156 as an Electrical Inspector for the Southwest Michigan Building Authority (SWMBA) and has the time to
157 assist with Texas Township when needed. Our Building Official, Rich McGrew, approves this
158 recommendation. Mr. Wilcox will be paid per inspection consistent with our other inspectors.

159 Motion by Kerr, seconded by Roberts, motion carried, to hire William Wilcox as a back-up
160 Electrical Inspector.

161 Trustee Loeks noted that Mr. Wilcox owns a building company and will not be allowed to inspect
162 his own projects.
163

164 **ZONING/BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

165 Planner Report

166 Planner Deisler updated the Board on the activities of the Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning
167 Commission and DDA for the month of August 2018.

168 Road Committee

169 Trustee Loeks announced that based on the remarks made at the Committee of the Whole
170 Meeting from the RCKC, it appears that it will be difficult to add any road projects this year. Any funds
171 remaining this year will be carried forward to 2019.

172 Farmers' Market Committee

173 Trustee Brown noted that the Farmers' Market Committee is meeting tomorrow, Tuesday,
174 September 11 at 1:00 p.m.

175 Personnel Committee

176 Supervisor Hinkle stated that the Personnel Committee is waiting for the superintendent
177 evaluations to be returned and encouraged Board Members to get them completed.
178

179 **BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

180 Onur Aruglasan of 890 Treasure Island Drive suggested the Board reach out to the W.M.U.
181 Geology Department or the Geophysics Department for assistance with the flooding problems. He also
182 questioned the feasibility of draining some of the water from the lakes into Bass Lake, Fish Camp Pond
183 and then to the AI Sabo Land Preserve.
184

185 **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

186 Trustee Boven thanked Superintendent VanderWiere for putting together the sand bagging
187 operation. He also questioned whether dye could be put in Bass Lake to see if it is flowing to the east.
188 Additionally, he noticed the new two-sided City of Portage sign on the corner of 12th Street and Q
189 Avenue. Although it is in Portage, it appears that you are entering Portage when traveling west on Q
190 Avenue from that intersection.

191 Trustee Mazer thanked Julie, staff members and all the volunteers for participating in the sand
192 bagging operation.

193 Trustee Brown remarked that at the last meeting he stressed the importance of communication,
194 and that has happened. He emphasized the importance of completing the flood assessment. We need
195 documentation to indicate damage in order to provide a cost to benefit ratio. Communication will make
196 the difference.



197 Clerk Kerr reported that ballot proofs are being reviewed and that there are three proposals on
198 the ballot in November:

- 199 • Recreational Marijuana;
- 200 • Redistricting; and
- 201 • Voting issues regarding Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight
202 ticket voting and same day voter registration.

203 Treasurer Roberts also thanked Superintendent VanderWiere for all her work fielding phone calls,
204 organizing the sand bagging, and setting up meetings. She also stated that Summer Taxes are due on
205 Friday, September 14th, and the Treasurer's Office will be open until 5:00 p.m. that day to receive
206 payments.

207 Supervisor Hinkle thanked everyone for attending the meeting and being engaged. Government
208 works well when all are pulling in the same direction.
209

210 **ADJOURNMENT**

211 Motion by Loeks, seconded by Brown, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting
212 adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.
213

214 Submitted:

Approved:

215
216

217 Clerk Linda M. Kerr, CMC, MPA
218 Attested: Supervisor John Hinkle