**Board Minutes**

**May 8, 2025**

**DRAFT**

The regular meeting of the Crawford County Board of Road Commissioners was held at their office at 500 Huron Street on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 4:31 p.m., Present: Vice Chairman Summers, Commissioner Hanson, Commissioner Jones, Absent: Chairman Halstead, Commissioner Larson. Administrative staff present: Managing Director, Don Babcock, Clerk of the Board, Kaitlyn Carlson, Engineer Technician, Matt Gabriel. Public Attending: Dorothy Frederick, Crawford County Commissioner, Nick Opperman, Rieth-Riley.

It was moved by Commissioner Jones and supported by Commissioner Hanson to approve the May 8, 2025; Crawford County Road Commission Agenda as presented. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Hanson and supported by Commissioner Jones to approve the April 24, 2025, Board Minutes as presented. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

Accounts Payable Voucher #16 in the amount of $178,906.86 was moved to pay by Commissioner Hanson and supported by Commissioner Jones. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

Accounts Payable Voucher #16-1 in the amount of $574.56 was moved to pay by Vice Chairman Summers and supported by Commissioner Jones. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

**Cash Flow:** None

**Accounts Receivables:** None

**Blade and Brine Report:** Managing Director Babcock reported commercial brine is scheduled May 19, June 2, and August 28.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Crawford County Commissioner, Dorothy Frederick reported Lake Margarethe Dam demolition should be completed by the end of this month and the construction of the new Dam should be completed by the end of June.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Progress Schedule: Industrial Drive:** Clearing and grubbing operations are scheduled to begin the week of May 19. J&N has been contracted to clear the entire Right of Way. The Grayling Watermain project will cover the cost of clearing their designated section. Toebe Construction, the contractor awarded the watermain bid, has retained J&N to clear the easterly 20 feet of the Right of Way.

All required documentation, including Performance Bonds, Surety Bonds, and related agreements, have been completed.

The Grayling Watermain construction is scheduled to commence on Monday, May 12. Two message boards have been placed to inform the public that May 12th is the start of construction of the Watermain project and June 2 is the deadline to sign up for water service hookup.

It was moved by Commissioner Jones and supported by Commissioner Hanson to place Truck Driver, Erik Brayman on family medical leave once his sick and comprehensive time have been exhausted. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

It was moved by Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Jones to award the roadway surfacing bid to Rieth-Riley for 79.35/ton. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Summers and seconded by Commissioner Hanson to award the street sweeping bid to Northern Power Sweeping for a three year contract @ $12,000.00 in April, $4,000.00 in July, and $4,000.00 in November for the first and second year, $12,000.00 in April, $4,500.00 in July, and $4,500.00 in November for the third year, Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead absent, Hanson yea, Jones yea, Summers yea. Motion Carried.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR COMMENTS**:

**Personnel changes**: Engineer TechnicianTim McCarthy’s last day in the office will be Thursday, May 15. Managing Director Babcock extended his well wishes to Tim with his future endeavors. Matt Gabriel will assume Tim’s role moving forward. County Road Superintendent Robin Pratt has announced plans to retire at the end of June. Upon his departure, Shawn Gabriel will transition into Robin’s position. Interviews were recently conducted for the State Foreman position. Five candidates were considered: Dale Bindschatel, Nick Argue, Zac Rochette, Tyler Hanson, and Jeff Harwood. Each applicant completed an assessment, including math and general knowledge questions, and participated in a panel interview of peers. Following the evaluation process, it was unanimously agreed to promote Dale Bindschatel to the position. Additionally, both a truck driver and a mechanic are leaving. Ahead of the winter season, we anticipate the need to hire a Heavy Equipment Operator and a Truck Driver to fill expected vacancies. Looking further ahead, a search will begin next spring to find a replacement for Managing Director, Babcock.

**North Down River Road:** MDOT has accepted the Grade Inspection Package and the proposed progress schedule. Due to the current hold on federal funding, the project timeline is expected to be impacted. Typically, we aim to bid projects between late May and mid-June. With the funding delay, the bid process may be postponed until late August or mid-September. This is likely to impact pricing and overall project costs. As a result, there is a possibility that the project may not be completed within the current construction season and could be rescheduled to next year.

**Twin Bridge Road:** Additional funding has been approved for the Twin Bridge Road project, with a projected allocation of $5.3 million scheduled for Fiscal Year 2027.

The property next to the Road Commission is currently for sale. While we may not have an immediate need for additional space, long-term projections suggest that expansion will likely be necessary within the next 10–20 years. The site could serve as cold storage or other operational needs in the future. Managing Director, Babcock has spoken with the current owner and has been given a tour of the property. While the building is not in pristine condition, there are existing structures valued at over $400,000. Commissioner Hanson has requested that Managing Director Babcock contact the bank to explore mortgage options, including available terms and interest rates. A discussion regarding the potential purchase price is scheduled for the next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Larson – Absent.

Vice Chairman Summers – None

Commissioner Hanson– None

Commissioner Jones – None

Chairman Halstead – Absent

There being no further business to come before the Board Vice Chairman Summers declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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**Gary Summers, Vice Chairman Kaitlyn Carlson, Clerk of the Board**