

**SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
332N EAST ROAD, MANISTIQUE, MI 49854
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
September 3rd, 2019 - 7:00 a.m.**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Public Comment:
6. New Business:
 - A. Schoolcraft County Road Commission Private Plowing Services
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment

1. Call Meeting to order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman T. Klarich at 7:00 A.M.

2. Roll Call Information:

Roll call showed the following Board Members in attendance:

Thomas Klarich, Dale DuFour, Keith Rochefort, Randy Lund, and Robin LaCroix

Also, in attendance:

Jean Frankovich, Managing Director

Brittany DeMars, Human Resources

Bernard Lund, General Public

Bill Banzhaf, General Public

Deb LeBlanc, General Public

Marion Shroyer, General Public

Doug Copeland, General Public

Dan & Berthenia Allison, General Public

Darlene Cleminson, General Public

Russ Marr, General Public

Clara Marr, General Public

John Kalata, General Public

Patrick Keefe, General Public

Jeff Ward, General Public

Richard Nedeau, General Public

Kathe Nedeau, General Public

3. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge was recited

4. Approval of Agenda

It was moved to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner D. DuFour, seconded by Commissioner R. LaCroix. Motion carried.

Ayes: Five

Nays: None

5. Public Comment: None

6. New Business

a. Schoolcraft County Road Commission Private Plowing Services

Directing Manager J. Frankovich began the discussion by reading all the letters that the office has received since the notice of this hearing had been released. She then stated that the Commission was seeking to either end private plowing services completely or begin billing on an overtime basis. She explained that keeping the private roads as an overtime only job would allow workers to complete their current run in the correct order of operations and make tracking/billing of the roads easier. J. Frankovich acknowledged that some of the issues with the plowing resided in the employee's abilities to properly track time spent on those roads.

Chairman T. Klarich allowed for the public to speak at this time.

Mr. Doug Nelson stated that he believed the private drives had always been done after the public roads and did not understand why they would be so difficult to track.

Mrs. Deb LeBlanc asked if the Commission operated using QuickBooks. Managing Director J. Frankovich informed her that we used a more specialized software geared toward road commissions. Mrs. LeBlanc suggested the Commission install GPS tracking units to track the driver's routes. Commissioner K. Rochefort noted that the Commission had tried before and the GPS units did not perform as intended.

Bill Banzhaf wanted to let the Commission know he appreciated their time and dedication to keeping the roads clear. He stated that he believes this to be a problem with employees and not with the private roads. He also stated he did not believe that going back out onto the roads after returning to the shop to plow private roads on overtime would be very cost effective for the Commission. Mr. Banzhaf is willing to pay whatever is needed to ensure the Commission will continue plowing his roads.

Chairman T. Klarich asked if the Commission would make more money by simply adopting the roads. Managing Director J. Frankovich stated she did not have the numbers currently but noted that all residents of the road would have to agree.

Deb LeBlanc asked if the employees had specific codes they could charge their time on private drives to. Managing Director J. Frankovich confirmed that they did.

Clara Marr asked if the Commission would simply break down the average cost of road plowing of all roads and then bill all private roads as one from the average cost. Managing Director J. Frankovich stated that we could not bill in that manner due to regulations on our general ledger items.

John Kalata asked if the Commission could just lump sum bill the private roads. Managing Director J. Frankovich stated this was not allowed.

Doug Copeland from George Street stated he had gone to meetings in the past and was thankful for the information that was being given today. He stated he did not believe it was a money problem since the residence seemed more than willing to pay. Instead he believes this to be a political issue. He then asked if anyone on the Board lived on a private drive. Managing Director J. Frankovich stated she lived on a private drive and was also concerned about what snow removal would cost her however, she is more concerned with doing what is best for the Commission.

Jeff Ward asked if there has been a cost analysis done to see what it would cost the Commission to send people back out on overtime. In his opinion he does not see this as a private road plowing problem he sees this as a management issue. He stated without proper management the employees cannot complete satisfactory work. Managing Director J. Frankovich explained that the reason for wanting the roads to be completed on overtime was because of the order of operations the Commission needs to follow. Per agreements the Commission is to maintain State highways first, county primaries second, and local roads third followed by any private roads. Mr. Ward asked at what point the Commission would address efficiency over the order of operations.

Berthenia Allison from Murphy Lake Road asked if this would affect plowing on her federal forest road. Managing Director J. Frankovich stated that if her road was covered under a federal forest agreement it would not be affected.

John Kalata asked if his road was covered under the federal forest agreement. Managing Director J. Frankovich confirmed that it was not.

Deb LeBlanc stated that the cost and order did not seem to be that different from what the Commission had been doing in the past and asked that we just continue that.

Bill Banzhaf said that what he was hearing seemed to be a staff issue. To solve this issue, he asked that we please work together to reach an agreement. Mr. Banzhaf believes with a bit more though we can come together and find the proper solution

Chairman T. Klarich asked if they could go into a closed session to decide on pricing and scheduling. Managing Director J. Frankovich advised against this stating she did not believe this would be an allowable closed session topic.

Kim Rochefort, Road Foreman, took the opportunity to explain that an issue the Commission faces is the demand for private roads to be plowed quickly. During prolonged snow events we are receiving numerous phone calls and complaints that roads are not being plowed when people want them plowed, while he wishes they could be done faster sometimes it is simply not possible with the workload the men have.

Brittany DeMars, Human Resources, supported K. Rochefort, Road Foreman, in his statement. She stated that while working in the front office she takes numerous complaints about private roads not being gotten to quickly enough.

Pat Keefe asked if the people calling were new residents. B. DeMars confirmed they were not new to the area.

Managing Director J. Frankovich stated she would be willing to draft a letter explaining the order of operations to all private driveway applicants.

It was moved to continue private road plowing at this time with a letter of explanation for order of operations and decide a fee basis at a future meeting by Commissioner R. LaCroix, seconded by Commissioner R. Lund. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

R. LaCroix – Yes

R. Lund – Yes

K. Rochefort – Yes

D. DuFour – Yes

T. Klarich – Yes

7. Public Comment

Commissioner K. Rochefort asked if we could bill for overhead costs. Managing Director J. Frankovich confirmed that we already billed for 8.5% overhead.

Doug Copeland stated he lived in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area for a very long time. He stated that they were in a snow belt and received multiple storms. He believes the Schoolcraft County Road Commission does a better job than he has ever seen. Kudos to all the workers who keep the roads cleared here.

Deb LeBlanc wanted to reiterate that she appreciates the work the Commission does very much

John Kalata wanted to thank the Commission for their diligence and suggest we release a radio PSA to alert the public of our order of operations.

Jeff Ward stated he was grateful for everything the Commission does and suggested the public tell the workers more often how appreciated they are.

Pat Keefe thanked the Commission and Managing Director J. Frankovich for all the information.

Sue Urban thanked Brittany DeMars for all her work in the office.

8. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 A.M. by Commissioner T. Klarich, seconded by Commissioner R. LaCroix Motion carried.


Thomas Klarich, Chairperson


Jean Frankovich, Manager