

The Regular Meeting of the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners convened on April 27, 2022 at the Board of Commissioners Room, 33 McCollum Street, Suite 210, Hillsdale, Michigan.

Commissioner Wiley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America by Commissioner Wiley.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>ABSENT:</u>
	1	Doug Ingles	
	2	Kathy Schmitt	
	3	Mark Wiley	
	4	Brad Benzing	
	5	Brent Leininger	

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer & Pledge by Commissioner Wiley
3. Agenda
4. Public Hearing:
 - 7:05 p.m. Public Hearing: Discussion – Increasing the Road Commission Board 3 Members to 5 Members
 - 7:35 p.m. Public Hearing: Discussion – Board of Commissioners Assuming the Duties of the Road Commission
5. Public Comment
6. Further Board discussion
11. Adjournment

Present: Dennis Frantz, Doug Tripp, Eric Closson, Mark Kline, Wes Wickham, Lori Boyd, Karen Winchell, Joel Bowers, Teresa Keck, Jennifer Cox, Don Hobbs, Mark Stemen, Mark Nichols, Alfred Dubois, Andy Thomas, Jo Thomas, Keith Watson, Sheri Ingles, Cinda Walton, Pete Rufenacht, Jim Heckel, Teresa Poling, Ron Poling, Shaun Stukey, Lisa Wallace, Steve Wismar, Glenn Frobel, Stephanie Scott, Betty June Stoner, Crystal Stoner, Ronda Smith, Jesse Smith, Howie Kesselring, Robert Eichler, Kelley Mapes, Mary Smith, Karla Adams, Dustin Adams

NOTE: Several people from the public entered and exited throughout the meeting.

C/Leininger moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of Public Comment after the adjournment of the Public Hearing.

Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

7:01 p.m. C/Leininger moved to open the Public Hearing to receive comments in regards to changing the Road Commission Board from three members to five members. Second by C/Schmitt. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

Pete Rufenacht: Better effective with 5.

Mark Kline: In favor of 5 – better representation for the county.

Mark Stemen: Not in favor of 5 – commented missing member of the Board has participated by phone for years.

June Stoner: Definitely in favor of a 5 man board; other boards have more than 3.

Andy Thomas: Feels the 5 man board would be easier to solve problems.

Jessie Smith: Communication issues – would like to see it drop to 1 member.

Mary Smith: Inquired as to how much it would cost. C/Benzing stated approximately \$50,000.

Bob Eichler: In favor for a 5 member board; management issues – get rid of the problem.

Joel Bowers: System is broken; no accountability, easily swayed; 5 would have more accountability.

Lisa Wallace: Agree 100% with a 5 member board; accountability; visit townships more.

Chris Myers: Votes for a 3 man crew; management and employees need to be more accountable; it's not the commission, it's about duties and working together.

Ron Poling: Road Commission employee for 26 years; doesn't care whether there are 3 or 5; transparent – ability for everyone to work together.

Karla Adams: Feels there is poor management – office and field; why pay more when the system is broken.

Eric Closson: Nothing gets done; do not spend any more money; doesn't believe 5 would make a difference, stay with 3.

Steve Wismar: 5

Howie Kesselring: Why would 5 solve the problem?

Mary Smith: Not getting any response when she tries calling the Road Commission.

Nick Bentley: In favor of a 5 man board.

Mark Nichols: In favor of 5

Glen Frobel: In favor of 5; communication.

7:33 p.m. C/Ingles moved to close the Public Hearing. Second by C/Leininger. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

7:34 p.m. C/Ingles moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the question to take to the vote of the people the transfer of authority from the Road Commission Board to the Board of Commissioners. Second by C/Benzing. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

Cinda Walton: Against the Board of Commissioners taking over the Road Commission Board; they need to take care of their own problems.

Lance Lashaway: More government has never solved the problem. Believes the best way is dissolving the Road Commission Board; have the Board of Commissioners hire new management; run the road commission like a business not like government would be the best option.

June Stoner: This Board already has their plates full – no take over.

Karla Adams: Inquiring if the Board of Commissioners would receive a pay raise. Not in favor of the Board of Commissioners taking it over.

Ron Polling: Inquired when would the 5 man board take over; plates are full – feels Road Commission Board deserves more as \$50,000 won't make a drop in a road.

Ronda Smith: Not in favor of the Board of Commissioners taking over the Road Commission Board.

Kelly Mapes: Board of Commissioners has a lot of work to do – no take over.

Don Hobbs: To busy to take over the Road Commission Board – no.

Howie Kesselring: Questioned the Board of Commissioners if they could do it; take it to the vote of the people – yes.

Mark Kline: If brought to the vote of the people would vote no; Road Commission Board needs to work with the townships.

Lisa Wallace: No county take over.

Joel Bowers: No

Glenn Frobel: Solution – new manager; recall Road Commission Board; report to Board of Commissioners – yes.

Mark Nichols: Concerned about the roads – not in favor of the takeover; feels Road Commission Board is a large enough entity to take care of their own.

Andy Thomas – Board of Commissioners has their plate full; no take over.

8:10 p.m. C/Leininger moved to close the Public Hearing. Second by C/Ingles. Vote unanimous.

CARRIED

Public Comment:

Karla Adams addressed the issue concerning the summer program help.

June Stoner: Also commented on the summer program; need new management; real problems.

Chris Myers: Management not following through.

Bob Eichler: Complimented the Board of Commissioners.

Shaun Stukey: Recall the Road Commission Board.

Mark Nichols: All of our road problems are not only in Hillsdale – they need to come together.

Further Board discussion:

C/Leininger reported on the number of Road Commissioner Board members in the State:

23 – 3 member appointed by the Board of Commissioners

20 – 3 member elected Boards

20 – 5 member appointed by the Board of Commissioners

13 – 5 member elected Boards

7 – Branches of County government overseen by the County Executive Committee

C/Benzing thanked the public for attending. Is not in favor of taking over the Road Commission Board; will consider increasing the number from 3 to 5.

C/Ingles appreciated the comments. Happy to have this Public Hearing so the public can voice their concerns.

C/Schmitt appreciates the public attending. Eliminating the Road Commission Board is not the answer; Board of

Commissioners are not the answer.

C/Wiley appreciated everyone coming tonight; get involved at your townships, engage. We live stream our meetings.

8:29 p.m. adjournment by call of the Chair.

Mark E. Wiley, Chairperson
Board of Commissioners

Marney M. Kast,
County Clerk