

APRIL 16, 2008

The Board of County Road Commissioners for Montcalm County held a meeting at its office located in Stanton, Michigan at 3:00 p.m. on April 16, 2008.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Mark Christensen, Superintendent; Carol Smith, County Highway Engineer; Tom Mayan; Consulting Engineer; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of April 2, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

County Commissioner Ron Baker came before the Board and presented a list of intersections, located in the panhandle area of the county, which he and some of the residents feel need to be addressed for sight distance concerns. Mr. Baker stated that some needed more attention than others and that some of them had adequate sight distance if drivers would stop at the stop sign and then pull up a short distance. Mark Christensen advised Mr. Baker that he had already looked at some of the intersections, which were listed in a Daily News article, and he would get with the area foreman to discuss the concerns.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the following township contracts. Motion carried.

Bushnell Township

- Gravel Sessions Rd from Cedar Lake Rd to Tow Rd - \$5,181.
- Gravel Sessions Rd from Vickeryville Rd to Senator Rd - \$5,181.
- Gravel Tow Rd from Sessions Rd to Condensery Rd - \$10,361.
- Gravel Boyer Rd from Castle Rd to Vickeryville Rd - \$20,722.
- Machine wedge and seal Vickeryville Rd from Fenwick Rd to Boyer Rd - \$16,887.

Crystal Township

- Remove and replace Sloan Road bridge of Fish Creek, located south of Sidney Rd, under the Local Bridge Program - \$27,624. (5% local match).

Fairplain Township

- 180# overlay on Fenwick Rd across from the Fenwick post office - \$1,194.
- Machine wedge and seal Brown Rd from M57 to Boyer Rd - \$15,567.
- Machine wedge and seal Collins Rd from Fenwick Rd to end of pavement - \$11,270.
- Gravel various locations to be determined by twp supervisor and area foreman - \$13,457.
- Gravel Brown Rd from Jenks Rd to South County Line Rd - \$5,580.
- Salt stabilize Grow Rd from County Farm Rd south around curve to pavement - \$1,380.
- Salt stabilize Jenks Rd west of M66 from end of pavement around curve and down to county line - \$1,380.
- Three applications of chloride at \$1,650 gpm - \$26,047.

Douglass Township

- Salt stabilize Lake Rd from Briggs Rd to Hills Rd - \$230.
- Salt stabilize Lake Rd from Briggs Rd south to pavement - \$828.
- Gravel Kendaville Rd from Musson Rd to M66 - \$23,858.
- Machine wedge and seal West Shore Drive and Rainbow Circle at Lake Stanton - \$11,107.
- Machine wedge and seal Musson Rd from Cannonsville Rd to McBride Rd - \$14,847.
- Machine wedge and seal Briggs Rd from Hillman Rd to Lake Rd - \$16,100.
- 165# overlay on East Shore Drive at Lake Stanton from end of new pavement northerly - \$30,620.

Reynolds Township

- Machine wedge and seal Almy Rd from Federal Rd to Paepke Rd - \$18,858.
- Machine wedge and seal Maple Hill Rd from Edgar Rd to Yankee Rd - \$22,366.

Sidney Township

- Check culvert; gravel Duckland Rd from Plumb Rd to Miles Rd - \$3,115.
- Gravel Huck Drive from County Farm Rd north to end - \$4,486.
- Gravel Grow Rd from Sidney Rod south 0.6 mile - \$7,477.
- Gravel Plumb Rd from Pakes Rd north to first curve - \$12,461.

Manager's Report

- Seasonal weight limits ended yesterday morning.
- Received a return phone call from MDOT yesterday regarding the Greenville salt shed; they will be getting the paperwork to us and then we will be able to go out for bids. The plans are ready.
- The three primary roads being re-paved this summer were crushed last week.
- Spoke with E.J. Horricks; Bloomer Township will be paying their bill from 2007 shortly.

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- Participated in Negotiating Committee meeting in Lansing yesterday; it looks like a five-year trunkline contract is close to being settled.
- Mark and I went to Ottawa County Road Commission last week to look at their single-axle trucks with wings. There are a few issues, e.g. when running low on ballast the trunk has a tendency to wander, so they blade and salt up and back and then make another round using the wing. To me, that defeats the purpose of trying to save on overtime and fuel.
- Received a phone call from a back-lot owner at Crystal Lake asking about the sign installed on the Owosso Street right-of-way. He is not pleased with the Board's decision to install the sign.
- As a way to save on fuel, some counties are putting idle restrictors on their trucks during the summer months and setting them at 15 to 20 minutes. What is the Board's thought on this? The commissioners stated, "Our drivers should be turning off their trunks when they're not in them. There is no need to leave them running this time of year. For the time being, monitor the situation".

Superintendent's Report

- The roads were in relatively good shape before the rain this past weekend; but 522, 530 and 540 are terrible now. We will be able to get hot patch starting next week; discussed cost of hand-patching versus putting the roads back to gravel and decided to hand patch for now. By this time next year we may have no choice but to put these roads back to gravel.
- Took the erosion control test at DEQ; passed the test.
- Seventeen of the 20 townships have turned in their signed chloride contracts.
- The contractor is working on installing concrete curb and gutter at intersections on the three primary road projects; the culvert crew is replacing culverts.

Engineer's Report

Carol Smith, P.E.

- Miller Development is getting ready to start the Sloan Road bridge project on April 21st.
- We are working on the critical bridge applications, which are due in Lansing by June 1st. The applications should be ready to submit by the end of April.
- We have someone training on PASER and RoadSoft.
- The proposed bridge project on Federal Road over Rice Creek is still on hold; hope to hear more by the end of the month. Talking about a late fall letting with summer construction in 2009. Dale Linton—keep school bus traffic in mind.

Clerk's Report

- Reviewed 2007-2008 winter maintenance costs and year-to-date (October 1 through April 15) fuel costs. Total winter maintenance costs on county primary and local roads came in at 118.4% or \$234,001 over budget. The budget for fuel is \$450,000; however, as of mid-April there is only \$85,321 left in the budget with five and a half months left in the fiscal year. During that same five-and-a-half month period last year, we spent \$150,000 for fuel and the price per gallon was considerably less than now. Some help will come from the reduced cost for our annual insurance premium for general and auto liability, property, etc.—the invoice is \$195,000, which is about \$20,000 less than last year; I won't know what the savings on the voluntary lay-off will be until I know how many people are taking the lay-off and for how long; but I will have budget adjustments for the next board meeting.
- It was interesting to find out at yesterday's council meeting that some road commissions receive a contribution each year from their county commissioners—Clinton and Ionia each receive \$100,000 every year. Also, Shiawassee just purchased a new excavator and all of their townships will contribute a set amount each year over a five-year period to pay the full cost for it in exchange for a guarantee that the excavator will work at least 40 hours each year in each township cleaning ditches and addressing drainage problems. Their townships also contribute to primary road projects in their respective townships. If we were receiving this kind of financial assistance and didn't have the long-term debt for the two graders and especially the bond payment for the past five and the next five years, we could be sitting somewhat better too. But even with the assistance that some road commissions are receiving, they too are finding the need to cut back and reduce costs because of reduced funding and increasing costs.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 4/16/08 bills totaling \$400,642.38 and Payroll #8 totaling \$70,892.56. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk