

DECEMBER 17, 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 December 17, 2008.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of December 3, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of G) Executive Session. Motion carried.

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

Day Township

Three applications of chloride at 1,250 gpm - \$22,552.

Evergreen Township

Three applications of chloride at 1,650 gpm - \$28,243.

Home Township

Three applications of chloride at 1,650 gpm - \$21,855.

Pine Township

Three application of chloride at 1,650 gpm - \$17,879.

Winfield Township

Three application fo chloride at 2,000 gpm - \$38,167.

Manager's Report

- Salt shed in Greenville is just about completed except for installation of a ventilation fan.
- Winter maintenance is going well so far; sounds like this weekend could be bad. The crew is doing a great job.
- L&D Carey and Sons has extended their current bid for gravel resurfacing to 2009.
- The Mechanics' Helper position has been posted at Michigan Works.
- Interviewing candidates for the Engineering Technician's position tomorrow.

Superintendent's Report

- The crew is working hard on winter maintenance. We've had a few calls but mostly good comments. MDOT is pleased with what we're doing on the state trunklines.
- Regarding the recent e-mail that the commissioners received with accusations from an employee's spouse that another employee was taking firewood from trees cut along Holland Lake Road, an investigation was done on-site by the Michigan State Police at the time the tree cutting was being done, and I did an investigation after I became aware of the accusation. Following is what transpired: It was very slippery where the employee, the prison guard and the prison crew were working. They put several large sections of a tree in the back of the county truck to help them get traction while working in the area, and at the end of the day they put the wood back where it had been. Apparently some of the employees in the break room that night were ribbing the brush crew leader about the police showing up on the worksite and it got back to another employee's spouse who then contacted the commissioners.

Engineer's Report

- We're working on the Federal Aid projects for 2009.
- Looking at Vickeryville Road from Stanton Road to Sidney Road, North County Line Road from M66 to Wyman Road, and McBride Road from Crystal Road to East County Line Road for the stimulus package. What about bridges? We should consider Kendaville east of Federal, Wise west of M91 and Sidney over Flat River in Gowen.
- Completed other half of PASER ratings on primary roads, and local road ratings have been done since the October meeting.
- Preconstruction meeting for the bridge on Federal Road over Rice Creek was held earlier today. The project was awarded to SL&H; project is scheduled to start in May with an August completion.
- MDOT did the final record review for the Sloan Road/Fish Creek project; it went very well.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept a proposal from Scott Civil Engineering Company for calendar year 2009 routine bridge inspections, Level 1 scour analysis, and QA review for bridges on the local road system and primary road system. Motion carried.

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Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 2008 Primary and Local Road Certification and authorize the Chairman to sign the cover sheet. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 12/17/08 bills totaling \$214,725.37 and Payroll #26 totaling \$93,475.99. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to enter executive session at 4:25 p.m. to discuss an EEO legal matter regarding an employee. Motion carried.

Executive session ended at 4:40 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

Discussed salaried employees' wages, which have been frozen since the current rates were set on October 1, 2006; during the same period hourly employees' wages have increased by 5.2 percent. In comparing salaried employees' wages to the surrounding counties' average wages for the same positions, excluding Kent County, we found that some of our salaried employees' wages are substantially lower even though they have much more experience in their positions. In addition, the elimination of two positions in engineering has resulted in additional responsibilities being placed on several of the salaried employees. The Board stated that even though funding is tight we have made cuts to keep a balanced budget and an adequate fund balance, so with all this in mind it is reasonable to increase salaried employees' wages by four percent, which is equal to two percent for each of the past two years, and it is still less than the hourly employees' increases for the past two years.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to increase salaried employees' wages by four percent and to set the Shop Clerk's wage at \$15.18 per hour effective January 1, 2009. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk