

JANUARY 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 January 16, 2008.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk. Absent: Mark Christensen, Superintendent.

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

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve and sign the title sheet for the bridge on Sloan Road over Fish Creek, which is located between Holland Lake Road and Sidney Road in Crystal Township, and is to be removed and replaced under the Local Bridge Program. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Engineer's Report

Carol Smith, P.E., L.S. Engineering, Inc.

- The Sloan Road bridge project is tentatively scheduled for a March 7th letting. The construction cost will be split 80 percent Federal, 15 percent State and 5 percent Local. The estimated cost of the bridge is \$440,000.
- Staff is working on Federal Road over Rice Creek project. Looking at a late 2008 letting for construction in 2009.
- Looking at five or six locations for guardrail and bridge railing upgrades; plan to bundle them in a package and apply for safety funds. Will have a list of potential projects and numbers for the next meeting.

Mike Petersen of P.O.C. Fleet Services, Inc. came before the Board to discuss fuel prices, price trends and contract fuel pricing. Mike stated that prices have started to come down and should continue downward. Mike recommended that if the Board decides to contract fuel, it should consider splitting the contract in three buys.

Veldra Raines and Tim Grimwood, AFSCME Local 1071.07 Chapter Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, came before the Board to advise the Board of the following: 1) Veldra—Union members did not approve the memorandum of understanding, which would have allowed management to hire two part-time co-op students from the Career Center to grease vehicles, because when we used to have a grease person it was a union position—if it had not been a union position in the past, we would have looked at it differently. We would have liked to see students get experience, but we feel lack of a full-time grease person has been detrimental to the fleet and the Board needs to consider hiring a full-time grease person and put them on nights. Tim—I think the savings provided by less equipment breakage would pay for a full-time grease person. 2) We feel that sometimes trucks that are unsafe go out of here. Veldra stated he recently had another driver following him in a spare truck and he could barely see it because it had a headlight out and no strobe lights while plowing snow at night. Veldra stated that it was as much the driver's fault for not checking the truck, but it was the only truck running and available. The Board stated it is the driver's responsibility to do a pre-trip inspection, which is required by law, and if he found something unsafe, he should not have taken the truck out. 3) Veldra—Regarding the new policy about drivers staying out of the mechanics' area, if that is what it takes to get the job done that is fine, but a lot of times drivers are in there getting tools or parts. Randy stated that he is the one responsible for saying the drivers should not be hanging around in the shop and what he meant by that is that drivers should come in and let Kelly or Bill know what is wrong, but they should not be visiting with the mechanics while they are trying to work—nobody said that drivers cannot come into the shop to get a tool or a part. If it isn't going to take very long to get their vehicle fixed they should wait in the break room; but if it is going to take a while, they should notify their supervisor so he can have them take a spare truck and get back on the road. When you take your car to the dealership for service, do you wander around the shop and visit with the mechanics? Veldra stated that when he started here the mechanics always put the sanders on but now the truck drivers are doing it; the Board decided mechanics should be certified, so since we are not mechanics we should not be putting the sanders on. It is my understanding that we have used a record amount of salt so far this year, so how much salt have we wasted that maybe we would not have if the mechanics had put the sanders on? Randy stated he didn't think that was correct, so he checked and found that Montcalm County's usage is down and one of the lowest compared to other counties in the surrounding area. Veldra stated that when the drivers say they don't want to do mechanics' work, it is because they don't want the liability. He stated that they were told by their supervisor and the superintendent that toolboxes and tools would be placed at each garage for use by the drivers—they would just as soon management doesn't do that because they are not mechanics—if you're going to buy tools, buy them for the mechanics. Tim—When it comes to getting repairs done, things get done quicker if we get hold of Tony rather than the shop, so we have told the drivers to get hold of their foreman and the foreman can get hold of the shop. 4) Veldra—Employees do not like the name of the new committee—Employee Improvement Committee—it sounds like the employees need to be improved. Would like to see name changed.

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The Safety Committee needs to start meeting again and there should be a union officer on the committee; a union officer should accompany OSHA officials when inspections are made. 5) Veldra—A couple of employees have asked what the chain of command is—do we go to our foreman or the superintendent? A foreman will tell you to do one thing and then the superintendent will tell you something else. A lack of communication between supervision seems to be most of the problem. 6) Veldra and Tim—Sometimes when repairs are made on a truck it has to be done quickly and things are kind of cobbled together, but then the equipment is never brought back in and finished. All of the trucks are different; controls should be labeled inside the truck so a driver knows what's what in case he has to take a different truck. Veldra and Tim thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

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

Pierson Township

- Three applications of chloride on local roads at 1,650 gpm - \$26,751.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for Grievance No. A13460-1071-07 and to authorize the Managing Director to sign the documents. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Manager's Report

- Plans for the Greenville salt storage building are in the works.
- Eaton Corporation was up last week to discuss the AutoShift10 transmissions. Drivers filled out questionnaires and we provided copies of all transmission repairs to the technician. He pointed out that there have been no transmission failures—nothing has broken inside the transmissions—it all seems to be a wiring/electrical problem. Eaton will be coming up next week to do some driver training.
- Central Asphalt has offered to extend their 2007 bid prices for paving to 2008. Several counties have recently opened bids, and based on the prices they are getting—going up \$2 per ton on average—I think we should accept Central's offer.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept Central Asphalt's offer to extend its 2007 bid prices for asphalt to 2008. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept St. Regis Culvert Company's offer to extend its 2007 bid prices for metal culver to 2008. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to schedule the 2008 board meetings at 3:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Discussed recent request from County Commissioner Carl Paepke that a Road Commissioner be made a voting member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Dale Linton stated that he would be willing to be on the committee.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 1/16/08 bills totaling \$298,288.89 and Payroll #2 totaling \$89,587.13. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk