

JULY 2, 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 July 2, 2008.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of June 18, 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 the following township contract. Motion carried.

Montcalm Township

- Place a 180# bituminous overlay on Monroe Road from Muskrat Road to Fuller Road - \$24,882.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve and sign an Order to Remove Encroachment to Christine Anderson for an encroachment parked in the unimproved public road right-of-way of Gratiot Avenue located in the SW1/4 of Section 8, T10N-R5W, Crystal Township, Montcalm County. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve Permit No. 08-050 to Calvin Grandy allowing the installation of a well in the right-of-way for Center Street at Bridge Street, located in Section 16 of Belvidere Township; however, Mr. Grandy must remove the shed that is currently located in the right-of-way. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve and sign a Quit Claim Deed to Robert and Pamela Hemmes for a 33-foot right-of-way located south of Dickerson Lake Road and east of Johnson Road in Section 6 of Montcalm Township and described as part of the NW1/4 of Section 6, T10N, R8W, Montcalm Township, Montcalm County, Michigan. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to set a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. on August 6, 2008 to review the proposed 2009 through 2011 Federal Aid projects to be presented to the Area 8B Task Force. Motion carried.

Approved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve various adjustments totaling \$539,369 to the 2008 Cash Budget as presented by the Finance Director-Clerk. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

After reviewing and adjusting the budget, there was discussion about whether or not it was essential to have a mandatory layoff. It was the Board's decision that barring anything drastic or unforeseen, a layoff was not necessary during the current budget year, which ends on September 30, 2008. This is not to say that a layoff couldn't happen in the next fiscal year—everything depends on what happens with funding and with fuel and salt costs in the coming months. The Board stated that it would like to avoid any layoffs, if possible, but it cannot make any guarantees.

Reviewed current vehicle usage policy. The Board stated it would like some information from other road commissions and directed the Clerk to put some questions on the ListServ and bring the information back at the next board meeting for further discussion.

Manager's Report

- Since we've been talking about ways to save, what are we going to do about winter maintenance? I know it's early, but we need to make decisions especially on salt usage. If we're going to make any changes, we need to make them early enough so the public can be informed.
- No further information regarding the Owosso Street road abandonment suit; everything has been turned over to our attorney.
- Bridge deck on Sloan Road has been poured.
- The Assistant Engineer informed me today that he plans to retire at the end of this year.
- What are the Board's thoughts about offering a limited amount of compensatory time in lieu of overtime this coming winter? Other counties are doing it as a way to save money, and the employees who participate feel it is a win-win situation. Do you want to consider it? The Board stated it would be willing to do it on a trial basis, but the particulars would have to be worked out and agreed to in a memorandum of understanding between the Road Commission and the Union.

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Superintendent's Report

- Central Asphalt is paving in Eureka Township and Montcalm Township this week.
- The second round of chloride has started.
- Shoulders are done on CR585 and CR601.
- The footings for the new salt shed will be dug next week; the contractor will be in later in the week to pour the footings.

Clerk's Report

- I need to correct the number I gave you at the last board meeting regarding the new Blue Cross rates that are effective September 1st. I made an error—the increased annual cost is approximately \$70,000 not \$94,000.
- Reviewed Blue Cross and Priority Health insurance plans and quotes provided by the Road Commission's health insurance agent.
- Will be meeting with a representative from Employee Benefit Solutions next week to look at health insurance and other benefits to see if there is some way to reduce costs.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 7/2/08 bills totaling \$107,680.61 and Payroll #14 totaling \$70,481.03. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk