

OCTOBER 15, 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 October 15, 2008.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the minutes of September 24, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding compensatory time. In response to the Union's request to pay employees if they don't use their comp time within the calendar year, the Board stated that it is not in favor of paying employees for unused comp time—that would defeat the purpose of using comp time to save money. The Board changed the time period for using comp time to January 1st through October 31st in the same year the comp time is earned, and if an employee has not used his accumulated comp time by October 31st, supervision will schedule their time off in November.

Reviewed correspondence from Attorney Ryan Pellerito regarding Miranda Drive, a private road in Montcalm Township. The Finance Director will draft a letter of reply for Tom Mayan's review.

Manager's Report

- The crew from the Carson City Correctional Facility is back to work.
- Repairs to truck #35 should be done by Friday; just waiting on a step and bracket.
- Pavement marking on the east side of the county is ongoing; should be completed soon.
- One-year extension of the state trunkline contract has been signed and returned to Lansing.
- Received a couple of questions regarding the new contractor's deer disposal methods. I checked with the DNR in Belding, they have no problem with the way the contractor is disposing of the deer on his property, which is the same way the previous two contractors disposed of deer over the last several years.
- What about winter maintenance? Does the Board want to make any changes? Cut back on early morning overtime, cut down on salt usage and use more sand/salt, do more anti-icing when conditions are right; use chloride contractor when needed. According to MDOT, their only Priority #1 route in the county is US-131—Priority #1 means clearing snow and ice from the pavement over the entire width of the road will be a continuous process during and after a snow event and using overtime if necessary. All other state trunklines, e.g. M46, M57, M66, M82 and M91 are Priority #2, which means a goal of providing a pavement surface generally bare of ice and snow wide enough for one wheel-track in each direction using overtime as necessary during a storm. On a Priority #2 road, clearing the pavement of ice and snow over its entire width will be done after a winter storm without working overtime. As far as county roads are concerned, a few of our more heavily traveled primary roads will be treated as Priority #2 along with the state trunklines—those county primary roads are Sidney Road (510) from M91 to M66, Dickerson Lake Road/Stanton Road (522) from M91 at Cole's Corner to the east county line, and Federal Road (599) from the south county line to the north county line. After Priority #1 and #2 roads are done, the remaining county primary roads and then local (township) paved and gravel roads will be done.
- We have an employee who took the voluntary lay-off from August 18th through September 1st (Labor Day) and returned to work on September 2nd. He did not get paid for the holiday because he didn't work or take vacation before the holiday, which is in accordance with the labor agreement. I told the union representative that we would not pay for the holiday, but the employee feels he was doing the Road Commission a favor by taking the voluntary lay-off and should get paid for the holiday so I was asked to bring it to the Board. The Board agreed with the Manager's decision—that is why we have a labor agreement and the employee chose to take the lay-off.

Superintendent's Report

- Central Asphalt should finish the remainder of the paving projects next week—weather permitting.
- The crew has done about 12 miles of crack sealing—they've done a good job.
- The culvert crew is replacing culverts on Stanton Road between West County Line and Dagget.

Engineers' Report

- The bridge on Federal Road over Rice Creek will be in the November bid letting. Construction should start in May 2009 with completion in August 2009.
- The bridge on Grow Road south of Fenwick Road was inspected yesterday. It received the highest score for replacement; should be getting word about funding next month for construction in 2011.
- We did not receive approval for any of the safety grants that we applied for.
- Discussed Asset Management. The Feds are now allowing the use of Federal Aid funds for maintenance, e.g., chip seal and crack seal.
- Received full reimbursement for PASER rating sessions.

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Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the 10/15/08 bills totaling \$358,513.12 and Payroll #21 totaling \$69,943.59. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-Brundage, Linton.

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

Chairman

Clerk