

DECEMBER 1, 2004

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 1, 2004.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Jack Johnson, Superintendent; Bob Buckowing, County Highway Engineer; Thomas Mayan, Consulting Engineer and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of November 17, 2004 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Reviewed 2005 bids for gravel resurfacing and chloride application.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept and place on file all bids received for 2005 chloride application. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept and place on file all bids received for 2005 gravel resurfacing. Motion carried.

Discussed pros and cons of selling Federal aid dollars; reviewed proposed policy. Decided to try the exchange program on a one-year trial basis.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Road Commission for Montcalm County and the Michigan Department of Transportation for exchange of Federal funds for state funds. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes - McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to adopt Policy No. 2004-03 as follows:

The ROAD COMMISSION FOR MONTCALM COUNTY (Road Commission) has committed, on a one-year trial basis, to exchange with the Michigan Department of Transportation the Road Commission's Federal aid funds from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Economic Development (TEDF) Category D for State funds. This exchange will provide more flexibility in the use of funding dollars for the primary road system in Montcalm County.

It is hereby declared that the Road Commission will hold a public hearing to inform participants of this exchange program along with the proposed routes and expected road projects. The Road Commission hereby declares that all funds received through this exchange program shall be used only on Federal aid-eligible primary roads within the county. Furthermore, any reconstruction projects paid for with these funds, shall be paved to all-season standards. None of these funds may be used for wages, benefits, equipment or property purchases, legal costs or any other expenditures not related to Federal-aid eligible road projects.

This policy shall be in effect for the one-year trial period, or as long as the Board of County Road Commissioners decides to continue the exchange program after the one-year trial period.

Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to sign the Labor Agreement effective January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2009 and Memorandums of Understanding between the Road Commission and its employees in AFSCME Local 1071.07. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Clerk's Report

- The Clerk advised the Board that the board members have not received a pay increase in the last six years. After checking with the County Administrator, the Clerk found that the County chairman's annual wage is \$8,115 and the other commissioners' annual wage is \$6,868 each. The Clerk submit a written request to the County Commission for its approval to set the Road Commissioners' annual wages at \$7,200 for the chairman and \$6,600 for the vice-chairman and member.
- Advised the Board that we just received a Capital Equipment Advance in the amount of \$57,908 from the Michigan Department of Transportation based on 2003-2004 equipment costs; this will be reflected in the budget next time adjustments are made.

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Manager's Report

- The new patch trailers have been delivered and should be ready to go shortly.
- Because of complaints we have received, Don McCracken, Thane Erskin and I met a couple weeks ago with members of the Old Order Mennonites in the Carson City area to discuss a letter, which we sent to them requesting their cooperation in not running steel-wheeled equipment on public roads, which is against the law. Don McCracken advised them to discuss this with their Bishop to see if he will allow them to put rubber tires on their equipment—apparently this has been allowed in other states.
- Discussed the purchase of a pre-owned vibratory roller. Over the past several years we have been renting one each summer at a cost of approximately \$10,000 per year; it would be more cost effective to purchase a good pre-owned roller. Randy has been checking with several sources to get prices. The best deal is right in the county—a 1999, 84-inch wide roller with approximately 1,000 hours on it. We have inspected it, and it is in very good condition.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to purchase the 1999 84-inch roller, at a cost of \$42,500, from Mid-Michigan Equipment Sales in Pierson, Michigan. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Superintendent's Report

- The three anti-ice trucks are ready to go. We did not use them before the last storm, except on the new pavement on M57 west of Greenville, because it was such a wet snow—too much water. The trucks will be sent out under the right conditions.
- Discussed the need to purchase two new computers for the front office—one for the Finance Director and one for the Superintendent.
- Advised the Board that we will have to update the Assistant Engineer's computer and software in the 2006 budget, or possibly sooner. The AutoCad program needs to be updated or changed to MicroStation, which would be compatible with MDOT's software. The cost for the software alone will be approximately \$5,000.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the purchase of two new computers for use by the Finance Director and the Superintendent. Motion carried.

Engineers' Report

- Tom Mayan – Overall, the Crystal Enhancement Project has turned out to be a very nice project—a nice improvement for the community.
- Bob Buckowing – The project on Cutler Road in Winfield Township is completed—the guard rails have been installed on the bridge.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 12/1/04 bills totaling \$134,678.37 and Payroll #24 totaling \$66,821.21. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk