

JANUARY 21, 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 January 21, 2004.

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

Moved by Brundage, supported by Linton, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Moved by Brundage, supported by Linton, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Reviewed correspondence from Attorney Jeanne Jerow representing lot owners and requesting the Board's consent to vacate two walkways between lots 19 and 20 and lots 13 and 14 in the Elmwood Park Plat located in Section 20 of Pierson Township. The Board stated it is not in opposition to the request and directed that all information be sent to Attorney Michael Cavanaugh for his review and request that he reply to Ms. Jerow in this regard.

Manager' Report

- Attended yesterday's Seven County Council meeting, which was held in Ithaca. The program was in regard to health insurance costs and different ways employers can reduce costs. The commentator suggested employers self-insure portions of their health programs, e.g. dental, prescriptions, vision. Of the seven counties present, Gratiot is the only currently requiring employees to pay a portion of their health insurance premiums. Of the seven counties, we are the only county currently self-insuring dental and self-insuring a portion of the prescription coverage by reimbursing half of the prescription co-pay. The commentator also suggested that the road commissions offer a program to pay employees a portion of the health insurance premium in exchange for an employee opting out of the program if he or she has coverage under their spouse—we are already doing this too.
- The residents of Spring Grove Road were unable to come to an agreement regarding the public road vs. private road debate; therefore, this is going to court.
- While I am home on leave, I am working on updating job descriptions with the recent changes that were made and also just to make sure they are up to date since it has been a few years since they were reviewed.
- The Greenville garage is fully enclosed. The floor was poured yesterday; cannot put any heavy equipment on the floor for 28 days.
- I have been hearing from quite a few people about how pleased they are with our winter maintenance. We're even hearing from people in other counties about how pleased they are with road conditions when driving in Montcalm County. Our people are doing a great job!
- Spoke with Extended Purchasing again today regarding pickup trucks—the information still isn't on the website; however, they are reviewing the bid signatures and hope to have everything updated in about a week.

Engineering Report

- Al Sias and the correctional facility crew are moving right along and doing a great job—they have finished up with the trees on this year's federal aid projects on Crystal Road from M46 to North County Line and are about half done on the project on Sidney Road from M91 to Hillman Road.
- Rich Buskirk has all of the plans and paperwork done and turned in to Lansing for both of the federal aid projects; waiting to hear when the GI meeting is scheduled.
- In regard to the Crystal Road enhancement project, Don Cooper is reviewing the wording on the funding agreement between the different entities. We haven't received anything back from the Crystal DDA yet.
- We received the state's Critical Bridge report on Blackmer Road north of Condensery Road. The bridge has moved up the state's list from number 61 to number 21, but they haven't decided on funding yet—everything depends on where they draw the line on funding and we won't know that until some time in February.

Moved by Brundage, supported by Linton, to approve the 1/7/04 bills totaling \$445,007.95, the 1/21/04 bills totaling \$241,915.99, Payroll #1 totaling \$74,427.21 and Payroll #2 totaling \$100,275.53. Carried. Ayes: Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk

