

NOVEMBER 17, 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 November 17, 2004.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of November 3, 2004 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Reviewed request from the county's Parks Commission for the Road Commission to consider allowing snowmobiles to travel in county road rights-of-way. Reviewed correspondence from attorney Michael Cavanaugh regarding possible liability issues and who is responsible for policing snowmobiles traveling in the right-of-way. According to Mr. Cavanaugh, the Road Commission would have immunity from tort liability and state and local policing agencies would be responsible for law enforcement. It was decided that the Managing Director would contact the Sheriff's Department and the State Police to discuss the matter. Also, a public hearing will be scheduled and advertised before any decisions are made.

Discussed selling State and Federal Aid funds back to the state. Randy Stearns advised the Board that the other counties in our task force have sold their funds, and they have been very pleased with how it has worked—they have been able to do more work. Randy has already received written permission from Greenville's Transit System and the cities and villages; a public hearing would still have to be held the same as if we bid the projects through the state. Even though we would receive seventy-five cents on each state dollar, we should be able to do the same projects for a lower cost, because we would not have to pay Davis-Bacon wages and generally contractors charge a higher price for state-contracted work than they do for road commission-contracted work. This should enable us to do more primary roadwork. The Board stated that a written policy should be developed wherein it will state that any paving projects done using these funds would still be done to all-season standards and funds would not be used for wages, benefits, buildings, equipment, etc.—only roadwork on Federal Aid routes. The Board stated that it would be in favor of doing this on a one-year trial basis.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to authorize the Managing Director to pursue the sale of the Road Commission's State and Federal Aid funds, on a one-year trial basis, with the Michigan Department of Transportation. Motion carried. Roll call: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to authorize the Managing Director and the Finance Director as the official person/persons to discuss private/personal workers' compensation issues, including settlements, with the County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund's Administrator or Treasurer. Motion carried. Roll call: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Manager's Report

- Spoke with Jerry Byrne of Kent County Road Commission. They have been talking with their surrounding counties and would like to know if we would be interested in participating in the production and cost of a video that explains winter maintenance procedures and why things are done the way they are. It would be nice to have it as a training tool and to show to townships, service clubs, schools, etc. The Board stated that it would be interested in doing this.
- The next patch trailers should be delivered to Stanton by the end of this week or early next week.
- Spoke with Casair about time clocks earlier today; looking at either a biometric system or a magnetic card system. We should look at developing a written policy in this regard too.
- Discussed purchasing a used roller rather than renting one each year—we are using it more and more and purchasing a good used one at a reasonable price is justified. Have been calling around talking to several dealers—they only have 66-inch drums or smaller. Have spoken to a vendor in the county who has a used 84-inch drum roller with around one thousand hours on it.

Engineer's Report

- The Crystal Enhancement Project is almost completed; however, there is still some discussion about the decorative concrete, which may have to be finalized in the spring because it is getting late in the season. The Township, the Crystal DDA and Consumers Energy are trying to work out some issues regarding the decorative street lighting.

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- The bridge replacement on Cutler Road in Winfield Township is almost completed; waiting on contractor to install guardrail, which should be done soon.

Commissioners' Comments

- What is the status of the dip on Wyman Road north of M46? Bob Buckowing stated that John Price is going to look at it. We can't do anything now but will need to do something in the spring.
- Discussed purchasing a junior wing for truck #30; the Board directed the Managing Director to contact Truck & Trailer Specialties to see what their schedule is.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the 11/17/04 bills totaling \$413,797.39 and Payroll #23 totaling \$70,657.08. Motion carried. Roll call: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk