

AUGUST 3, 2005

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 August 3, 2005.

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 July 19, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Developer Russell Eggers came before the Board to discuss a private planned unit development he and a partner intend to build on the north end of Burgess Lake in Eureka Township. Mr. Eggers stated the private roads would be built to the Road Commission's plat standards, as required by the County Commission's Ordinance No. 2005-02; however, he is requesting approval for a variance from the plat standards in regard to the grades. According to the plans, the grade will be 10 percent in some places, because the developers are trying to keep the area as natural as possible. Mr. Eggers stated that his engineers from FTC&H think they can get the grades down to 8 percent. Bob Buckowing stated that with 10 percent grades the shoulders would need to be addressed in some way to keep them from washing out—probably valley gutters. Bob suggested that Mr. Eggers and his engineer meet with Don Cooper and Bob on site to look at the area and then come back with suggestions to the next meeting; Mr. Eggers stated he would contact his engineers and get back with Bob to set up a date to meet.

Steve Pritchard, representing the Indian Lakes Association, came before the Board to discuss the following issues prior to the lake association's annual meeting: 1) Mr. Pritchard thanked the Road Commission for its help widening the shoulder by the association's bulletin board at the entrance to Indian Lakes making it safer for people to pull off the road to post and read notices. 2) Mr. Pritchard asked about the status of West Suwanee Drive where Chris Chase blocked the road where the plat ends and constructed a small, inadequate pull-off for people to turn around instead of farther to the east on Mr. Chase's property where everyone has turned around for many years. Years ago when Mr. Chase's father developed the Indian Lakes area, he did not provide right-of-way at the end of West Suwanee Drive, within the plat, to build a cul-de-sac as required by today's plat standards, which is why everyone turned around farther to the east. The lake association and the Drain Commission also used the road to access the dike that controls the lake's water level. With the road blocked off, there is no adequate turnaround for vehicles, trash trucks, school buses, our snowplows, etc. to turn around. The Board advised Mr. Pritchard that the Road Commission's attorney has looked into this and it is his opinion that the road and turnaround east of where it has been blocked off has become a public highway through the Highway By User Statute. A certified letter will be sent to Mr. Chase requesting that he remove the blockade to facilitate an adequate turnaround. 3) Mr. Pritchard stated that now that Arbogast Road north of Almy Road has been paved, residents are complaining about people driving too fast and would like to have a reduced speed limit posted. Randy Stearns stated that a traffic study would have to be done and the Michigan State Police would have to approve a traffic control order—he will have the MSP officer look at it next time he comes up to do traffic studies, which will probably be in 2 or 3 months. 4) What is the size of a 'legal' turnaround? The current Plat Standards require a 75-foot right-of-way radius with a 56-foot paved radius; the plats around Indian Lakes indicate 50-foot right-of-way radius but these plats were developed prior to the current plat standards and cannot be changed after the fact. 5) If we had a 10-year special assessment for road improvements in Indian Lakes, could all of the roads be done in one year? No, it would have to be spread over the 10-year period. 6) We have some areas where brush and trees need to be trimmed and cut in order to facilitate sight distance. Bob Buckowing suggested that the association provide a list of those areas so they can be addressed.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to appoint Dale Linton as voting delegate and Donald McCracken as the alternate to the annual County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the purchase by Marshall Coleman and the Road Commission of five years of generic service credit and four years and one month of military service credit under the MERS retirement plan. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Clerk's Report

- At the last board meeting the Board approved Veldra Raines and Tim Grimwood to take time off work to attend the "Leadership Montcalm" training program one day per month from September 2005 through May 2006 as long as they applied for and used vacation or personal time. After the board meeting I advised them of this. They stated that the Union was sponsoring them by paying for them to attend the training program; so, therefore, they could take off up to 10 working days per year without pay according to the labor agreement. According to Article XIX, Section 5 of the labor agreement, "Members of the Union selected to attend a labor convention or function of the

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- Union will be given time off..." The Board stated that in its opinion the "Leadership Montcalm" program is not a function of the Union, and just because the Union is paying for them to attend does not make it a union function; therefore, if these employees want to attend the training program they will have to apply for and use vacation or personal time.

Manager's Report

- Mowing on county roads is ongoing. MDOT called and gave us the go-ahead to do a second mowing on the state trunklines.
- The pavement marking on the Sidney Road project is done; they started on the Johnson Road project yesterday, and that should be done today. From there they will go do Crystal Road south of M57.
- Seal coating starts next week.
- We received two grievances from the Union regarding the recent policies adopted by the Board—Policy 2005-03, Ethical Standards and Standards of Conduct and Policy 2005-04, Fraud. I discussed both grievances with the labor attorney; both grievances were denied.
- The representative from Midland Asphalt Materials, Inc. of New York finally got back with me and sent some sample material. They did a two-mile test area several years ago—one side of the road with a regular seal coat and the other side a regular seal coat with the addition of the FibreDec material. The FibreDec side has lasted longer; and they claim it should last two to three times longer than the regular seal coat.

Superintendent's Report

- Township contracting for four applications of chloride have each had the first three applications done and will get their fourth application after Labor Day.
- Double-seal projects on Colby Road and Cannonsville Road—still on hold? Yes, for the time being.

Engineer's Report

- Discussed dip on Wyman Road. We want to get this area fixed before the school buses start running. I'm waiting on a return phone call from L&D Carey about getting some 22A slag. I spoke with Tony about saw-cutting the area full width by 300 feet long, removing the gravel and replacing it with slag, and then repaving it. All indications are that the area has not shifted any further and hopefully has settled as far as it will; by removing the gravel and replacing it with slag it would lighten the load and hopefully it will take care of the problem. If not, it will make the road safer in the meantime and it will buy us some time to determine what can be done. If this doesn't take care of the problem, any other fix will probably be very expensive.
- Haven't seen any additional problems at the dam on County Farm Road—just some washing on the side slopes during heavy rains. Took quotes from two concrete contractors; have scheduled one to do the work next week. The road will be closed for at least two days, and a detour will be set up.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to reschedule the September 7, 2005 board meeting to Tuesday, September 6, 2005 due to the NMARC meeting scheduled on September 7th. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 8/3/05 bills totaling \$612,191.40 and Payroll #16 totaling \$75,743.14. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk