

DECEMBER 21, 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 December 21, 2005.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of December 7, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of H) John Deere tractors. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, that the Board has no objection to the request to vacate, through Circuit Court, two paper walkways in Skinner's Resort Plat and directs that a reply be made by the Road Commission's attorney, Michael Cavanaugh. The two paper walkways are described as: a) a strip of land five feet in width located between the south line of Lot 7 and the north line of Lot 8 of Block D and between the south line of Lot 4 and the north line of Lot 5, Block A, bounded on the west by the shore of Big Whitefish Lake; and b) a strip of land five feet in width located between the south line of Lot 9 and the north line of Lot 10, of Block D and between the south line of Lot 6 and the north line of Lot 7, Block A, bounded on the west by the shore of Big Whitefish Lake; and both being part of Skinner's Resort Plat, Section 20, T11N, R10W, Pierson Township. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve installation of streetlights at the following locations by Consumers Energy: 1) Church Road at Amble Road; 2) Fenwick Road at Senator Road; 3) Johnson Road at Stanton Road; 4) Johnson Road at Dickerson Lake Road; 5) Hillman Road at Stanton Road; and 6) Holland Lake Road at Vickeryville Road. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the purchase, by Veldra Raines and the Road Commission, of five years of generic service credit under the MERS retirement plan contingent upon receipt of a written withdrawal of the grievance regarding the Board's previous decision to no longer participate in MERS service credit purchases and also that the Union acknowledges, in writing, that after December 30, 2005 the Road Commission will no longer participate in the purchase of MERS service credit and that the Union is in agreement. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Bader & Sons contacted us and advised us that as of December 31, 2005 the municipal discount program will be cut deeply. Discussed the John Deere tractors purchased in 2005 from Bader under the municipal discount program. At the time the tractors were purchased we planned to turn around and sell them over the winter and purchase new tractors under the municipal discount program and continue this rotation every year. Bader has buyers for the tractors we purchased in 2005, and they have offered to pick up our tractors and bring us three new ones in the spring at a total cost of \$50,727 or \$16,909 each. This is a good arrangement considering the list price for one new tractor is \$68,469. The Board agreed to exchange the tractors purchased in 2005 for three new tractors from Bader & Sons.

Manager's Report

- The last few months we've had a big problem with large numbers of old tires being dumped along roadsides in the northwest part of the county. So far we have had to spend almost \$10,000 on labor, equipment and disposal costs—these costs were not budgeted. Furthermore, when we're picking up tires, we're not working on roads. In one week the Howard City crew picked up over 500 tires that were dumped in Pierson Township and Reynolds Township. We have heard that tires are also being dumped in county drains. In talking with Newaygo County Road Commission and Mecosta County Road Commission, they are having the same problem and in the same general area as we are, so we think the tires are coming from the same place. The State Police have been notified and are keeping an eye open. Mecosta and Montcalm are going together and putting up a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction. We have both spoken with our prosecuting attorneys, and they are willing to prosecute to the fullest extent.
- As you know fuel prices are way up, and our equipment fuel costs have gone from \$18,000 per month in FY2003 to over \$48,000 for the first month of FY2006 (October 2005). We just received the Pacific Pride bill for the first two weeks of December, and the cost is \$26,000. Heating costs are way up too—the Stanton facility's heating cost went up 50 percent—November 2004 the cost was approximately \$2,000 and November 2005's cost was approximately \$3,000.
- The job postings for the townships have been completed. Fairplain was the last township signed for, which leaves a floater position open. Per the Board, hold off on filling the position, and let's see where we stand in the spring.

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- The following contractors have agreed, in writing, to extend their 2005 bids for the 2006 construction season: 1) Michigan Chloride for 26% chloride; 2) Pavement Recycling, Inc. for pulverizing sealcoat and asphalt roads; and 3) Michigan Pavement Markings for centerline and edge line markings.

Clerk's Report

- Treasury auditors were in last week and two days this week to audit FY2005 records and accounts. We had to make a few corrections but no big adjustments. The auditors said our records are well kept and in good shape. The report will be reviewed in Lansing before it is finalized.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 12/21/05 bills totaling \$144,165.14 and Payroll #26 totaling \$107,082.66. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk