

JULY 19, 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 July 19, 2005.

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 June 15, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the following township contracts. Motion carried.

Home Township

- One application of chloride at 1,250 gpm - \$5,519.
- Paint centerline on the following local roads: Peoples (M46 to Deaner); Deja (Edgar to Tamarack); and Edgar (Deja to Neff).

Reviewed Fairplains Township resolution requesting the installation of weight limit signs on all local paved roads in the township.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to postpone a decision on the resolution from Fairplain Township until the next meeting so that the Managing Director can discuss the request with the township supervisor. Motion carried.

Reviewed petition from residents of Sunny Trail, a local road, at Turk Lake requesting that Sunny Trail be paved at township, county or state expense. The Board directed that a letter be sent to the petitioners explaining the local road policy.

Discussed the current year's budget. The Finance Director apologized and explained to the Board that at the last Board meeting her report that year-to-date MTF funds were down 18% was inaccurate. Discovered this morning that the formula I set up to figure the year-to-date percentage change in the spreadsheet used to track the MTF funds was incorrect, and the correct year-to-date reduction is actually about 2.5%. Randy spoke to some counties again this morning and their percentages down are higher than ours, but they are on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year like us, which could account for the differences. That being said, our year-to-date MTF funds received are down \$116,000; and based on MDOT's forecast, by our September 30th yearend MTF funds could be down a total of approximately \$170,000. The error I made in the MTF percentage has nothing to do with the fact that the MTF dollars are down and it looks like they will continue to be for a while. Also, it doesn't change the fact that we have exceeded our overtime budget and need to keep overtime to a minimum and only when absolutely necessary. Furthermore, the reductions in expenditures that I suggested at the last board meeting still need to be made if we are to have any operating funds on September 30th to cover October bills and payroll. At this time it looks like we will have only \$200,000 in operating funds at the September 30th yearend, but that could vary up or down based on how township payments come in. We should aim to carry at least \$500,000 at yearend—with all of the construction and project invoices coming in at this time of year, a \$200,000 operating fund balance really is inadequate.

Discussed public and private roads in plats, site condominium developments and land splits. Tom Mayan suggested that the County Commissioners' private road ordinance adopted this past April should be referenced in our plat standards and included in the appendix. Tom suggested that he, Bob Buckowing and Karen Swan review the plat standards along with the private road ordinance and some other related items and pull everything together into one document.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to appoint Randy Stearns as the delegate and Donald McCracken as the alternate to the annual MERS meeting on September 21-22. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report

- Reviewed the to-date project costs for the Crystal Road enhancement project. The total to-date cost is \$669,813 of which \$595,934 is covered by Federal Aid funds, enhancement grant funds, and contributions from the Drain Commission, Crystal Township and the Crystal DDA. The balance of \$73,879 is the Road Commission's cost.
- Veldra Raines and Tim Grimwood are requesting the Board's permission to take time off from work to attend the "Leadership Montcalm" training program, which would require taking off one full day per month starting in September and ending in May. The Board stated that it is concerned about two truck drivers in one garage not being available for winter maintenance; however, it has no objection to them taking the time off to attend the training sessions. Per the Board, they will each have to fill out an Application for Leave for their supervisor's approval and use either vacation or personal time.

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Manager's Report

- Mowing on county roads is ongoing. MDOT is still telling us to hold off mowing on the state roads until further notice due to budget constraints.
- Received a phone call from the new public works director from the City of Greenville. They want to sealcoat approximately three-quarters of a mile of streets in the city; however, it is late in the season and they are having problems finding a contractor to do the work. They have asked if we would be willing to do it with our workforce, and they would pay us for labor, equipment and materials. The Board has no objection.
- The shoulders were put down on the Sidney Road project last week. The pavement marking will be done after Johnson Road and Crystal Road are paved.
- The Johnson Road project is looking good. If everything works out, it should be paved next week and from there the contractor will go to Crystal Road.
- Reviewed letter from Eureka Township regarding Johnson Road south of Wise Road and developer KBH Homes. According to the letter the township is considering tentative dates of 2006 for road preparation and 2007 for paving this road. The Road Commission has requested KBH Homes to provide an irrevocable letter of credit for its agreed upon contribution of \$35,000 to the proposed project; however, they do not want their line of credit tied up for a lengthy period. Tom Mayan suggested that the Road Commission and the Township look at the possibility of signing a contract for the project, so everyone knows where it stands.
- We had another call from a resident on Woodvale Court complaining that the Road Commission did not mow and trim the island in the center of the cul-de-sac. There is a spruce tree in the center of the island with several large rocks surrounding it. I explained to the resident that we mow the roadside, where needed; however, we do not have the time and equipment to do landscaping work. If the residents want the island landscaped as it is, they will have to maintain it.
- We met last week with two of the union officers and their representative regarding the time clocks. Our attorney, Mike Kluck, was here to manage the meeting and discuss their concerns. I think the meeting went well and that the Union's questions were answered.

Engineer's Report

- The Drain Commission has approved Phase 2 of the Autumn Ridge site condominium development in Eureka Township and the township has provided a resolution requesting that the roads be placed on certification.
- Discussed dip on Wyman Road. SME gave us a quote of \$13,000 to do an investigation and make suggestions. Also spoke with John Price about possible repairs. Bob stated that in the last five months the area has moved very little. Discussed possibility of saw cutting and skip paving the area. Tom Mayan said in order to fix it right, we need borings and an investigation to see how much muck there is. To fix it right could be very costly. Muck holes can eat up money real fast—it's not hard to throw \$100,000 into an area like this. Tom suggested that if we saw cut the area, that we remove the gravel and replace it with slag in order to lighten the load.
- Reviewed the Village of Lakeview's plans to install a water main in the road right-of-way along Lakeview Road north of the village to the airport.
- Discussed West Suwanee Trail in Indian Lakes. Met on site with Chris Chase several weeks ago; he would like us to build his road and he would provide a turnaround for our trucks. Advised Mr. Chase that we do not build roads for developers. Since that meeting he has blocked off the road at the end of the plat where it joins his property. Mr. Chase did make a small gravel pull-off where vehicles can turn around just past the end of the plat, but it will be a tight turn for our trucks. The owner of the last property in the plat has called to complain that vehicles are turning around on his property.
- Discussed seal coat contract with Crystal Township. Have an error in the distance that the contract was based on; accidentally carried the distance of 0.36 mile forward from a previous estimate and missed changing it to 1+ mile and seal coat amounts were based on 0.36 mile.
- Discussed County Farm dam. Borings were taken, but we don't have a cost estimate yet.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Eureka Township Board has submitted a request to the Road Commission for Montcalm County to add a 66-foot wide public right-of-way in Phase II of the Autumn Ridge site condominium development, which is located in Section 6, T9N, R8W, Eureka Township, Montcalm County, Michigan, to the Local Road System; and

WHEREAS, the following roads: Winterwood Drive between Johnson Road and Meadow Wood Circle (365 feet); Meadow Wood Circle (southeast) from Winterwood Drive to the east lot line of Lots 53 and 54 (1,088 feet); Meadow Wood Circle (northeast) from Winterwood Drive to the east lot line of Lots 32 and 66 (630 feet); and Summer Ridge Court off Meadow Wood Circle (340 feet), for a total distance of 2,423 feet, have been developed in accordance with the Road Commission's Plat Standards; and

WHEREAS, the right-of-way for the above streets have been deeded to the Road Commission for Montcalm County;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Road Commission for Montcalm County has reviewed and approved the request for the addition of the above-listed road to the Local Road System;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said road will add an additional 0.46 mile to the Local Road System.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to reschedule the September 21, 2005 board meeting to Tuesday, September 20, 2005 due to a conflicting meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 7/20/05 bills totaling \$598,516.09 and Payroll #15 totaling \$75,242.05. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk