

MARCH 9, 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 March 9, 2005.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the minutes of February 16, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Scott Minard, Supervisor of the Montcalm County Building Department, along with County Commissioners Carl Paepke, Ron Baker and Dan Petersen, came before the Board to discuss the County Board's proposed ordinance to regulate the construction of private roads and drives within the county. The Clerk advised the Board and those present that Thomas Mayan, P.E., Consulting Highway Engineer, reviewed the proposed ordinance and made several suggestions. A copy of the proposed ordinance showing Mr. Mayan's suggestions was given to Scott Minard and Dale Linton advised Mr. Minard that Figure 10, 'Typical Cross Section' would need to be updated if the County adopts Mr. Mayan's suggestions. Commissioner Baker asked that a representative from the Road Commission attend the County Commission's board meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 14th to voice the Road Commission's support of the proposed ordinance; Bob Buckowing, County Highway Engineer, will attend.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to accept and place on file all bids received for corrugated metal culvert and corrugated plastic culvert for the 2005 season's requirements. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve and sign the year-ending December 31, 2004 Road Certification for county primary and local roads. Motion carried.

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

WHEREAS, the Pierson 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 I of the Whitefish Woods site condominium development, which is located in Section 7, T11N, R10W, Pierson Township, Montcalm County, Michigan, to the Local Road System; and

WHEREAS, Whitefish Woods Drive from Kendaville Road to the east line of Lots 14 and 15, a distance of 1,855 feet, has been developed in accordance with the Road Commission's Plat Standards; and

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

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 0.35 mile to the Local Road System.

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

Reviewed correspondence from Rosemary Horvath, a member of the Crystal Downtown Development Authority. The DDA expressed its thanks for the Road Commission's guidance and oversight of the past year's Federal Aid-Enhancement project in downtown Crystal. The DDA is requesting that the Road Commission's staff provide assistance to investigate other funding options to extend the streetscape further west on Lake Street and further south on Main Street. During discussion it was pointed out that further west on Lake Street is not Federal Aid eligible, and there is no practical reason to go further south on Main Street because it would take the enhancement project out of the commercial district and into a residential area. Furthermore, the Road Commission's engineering staff will be very busy with upcoming projects on Johnson Road and Sidney Road, and will not be able to devote time to another enhancement project. It was suggested that if the DDA wishes to pursue this, there are private consultants and engineering firms that can handle this for the DDA. The Board directed that a letter be sent to the DDA in this regard.

MARCH 9, 2005

Clerk's Report

- Sidney Township submitted a bid of \$350 for the conference room table; they are the only bidder. Will contact Terry Peterman to let him know the table can be picked up.
- A former township official called the other day regarding Winfield Township's board minutes that were in the March 7th edition of the "River Valley Shopper" paper; he wanted to know if the Road Commission's policy regarding funding of local road projects had changed. He stated that Winfield Township's board minutes state that the residents of Indian Lakes are looking into pursuing a special assessment to upgrade and pave the roads in Indian Lakes with the township to pay 25 percent, the residents to pay 25 percent and the Road Commission to pay 50 percent. I advised him that nothing had changed in the Road Commission's Local Road Policy—the Road Commission does not financially participate in paving local roads and on other types of projects the townships pay for all materials and the Road Commission provides labor and equipment only. Commissioner Ron Baker stated that he happened to be at this particular township board meeting and is surprised that the Road Commission was not aware of what the township and lake residents were discussing—he figured the township would have discussed this with the Road Commission prior to the township meeting. No one has approached the Road Commission in this regard, and the Board directed the Clerk to send a letter to the Winfield Township Board advising them of the above.
- Advised the Board of winter maintenance and fuel costs. As of February 28th there is a balance remaining of \$51,275 in the overtime budget; if we continue to have the type of weather we have had the last several weeks, this balance will be depleted—the overtime cost for the last two-week pay period ending February 27th was \$28,061. Salt usage costs on primary and local roads are slightly over budget but can be adjusted for from another area of the budget. My main concern is the cost of fuel—when the budget was set back in September, I increased the fuel budget to \$280,000; however, that will not be enough. The year-to-date actual cost is \$153,646 with seven months remaining in the budget year. If fuel costs hadn't risen so much we would have been okay; however, with the increasing cost of fuel, the remaining balance of \$126,354 will not be enough. I suggest that the unbudgeted \$25,000 refund that we received from our workers' compensation carrier and the unbudgeted \$24,000 maintenance advance we received from MDOT be utilized to increase the fuel budget. The other main concern is what spring break-up will cost this year—this winter has been extremely hard on gravel roads—the worst in many years and the cost to get the gravel roads back in shape plus the cost to repair damaged blacktop roads could be very costly this spring. We need to keep all of this in mind and hold off on any equipment purchases, other than what is already budgeted, until we see how things go this spring.

Manager's Report

- I received a verbal quote from Fisher Transportation to stockpile crushed limestone in Ferris or Richland Township—the cost is \$15.87 per yard.
- The new patrol wing has been retrofitted on truck #30; one other truck will also be retrofitted and the two new float trucks will come with the patrol wings already on. Are we going to retrofit any others in the future? Need to discuss this for budget purposes.
- We received a report from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission on the condition of roads in the region, which showed Montcalm County's roads in need of improvement—overall the counties in the region, except for Kent County, rated about the same. Unfortunately, the report was completed prior to last year's projects being done; if the report had been done after our projects, our rating would have been higher.

Superintendent's Report

- Reviewed several items discussed at the recent Seven County Council Superintendents' meeting held at Eaton County. 1) PeatSorb®, which is an all natural oil absorbent product that can be disposed of with regular trash; Eaton is using it in place of Floor Dry® and they're very impressed with the product. It is a little more expensive; however, you use far less material. 2) Eaton County is installing GPS on their trucks—it shows where and when the plow is used, the underbody blade is used, and when salt is being discharged. From what we're hearing, it is highly likely that MDOT is going to require contract counties to install GPS on county trucks in the not-too-distant future; if they mandate it then hopefully they'll pay for it. 3) I asked the other counties if anyone is milling salt into their gravel roads as part of salt stabilization projects or if anyone is seal coating a gravel road after salt stabilization; Eaton County said they have been doing this and that it works really well.

Engineer's Report

- There are two separate environmental companies that have applied for permits to work in road right-of-way in Coral and McBride. The one in Coral is proposing to run nine monitoring lines across the Bailey Road; may have to do an open cut because it's not practical to run all of the lines through one conduit as I suggested to them. The project in McBride will require the installation of nine monitoring wells in the road.

MARCH 9, 2005

- The City of Greenville is hoping to bore and jack across Ridgewood Drive south of M57 to run water and sewer lines to the west where land has been annexed, but if that doesn't work they will have to do an open cut.

Comments

- Commissioner Paepke requested that the Road Commission clean out the ditch on the north side of Stanton Road west of Trufant by the cemetery. Jack Johnson stated that it is already on a list of things to be done.
- Commissioner Paepke stated that on Stanton Road just east of the culvert between the two lakes in Trufant, there is a frost heave in the eastbound lane—water may not be getting away from the road and ditch may need to be cleaned out.
- Larry Ek, Sidney Township Trustee, asked that the Road Commission look at the intersection of Nevins Road and Peck Road at County Farm Road to see if the intersection can be improved and make it a “T” intersection.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the 3/9/05 bills totaling \$160,783.33 and Payroll #5 totaling \$97,971.17. Motion carried. Roll call – Yes: Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk