

April 19, 2006

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 April 19, 2006.

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 April 5, 2006 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Ken Hall, Head Weigh Master for Kent County Road Commission, came before the Board to review the Weigh Masters' report for the recent spring weight restriction season. According to Mr. Hall he and the other Weigh Masters made 36 stops in Montcalm County and issued nine citations for commercial vehicles—seven for overweight violations and two vehicle violations. Mr. Hall stated that they have a couple of court appearances coming up for appeals on citations, and they will be sure to be present. They allowed several permits for well drillers to service residents whose wells had failed and denied several permits to well drillers for new construction. Mr. Hall asked if the Board had any comments or criticisms; the Board members stated that they had heard nothing but good, positive comments about the job that Kent County's weigh masters had done in Montcalm County and apparently they had gotten the attention of commercial drivers. Karen Swan stated that not only did Kent County's weigh masters do a good job, it was a good decision financially. The Board thanked Mr. Hall their assistance.

Three residents from Baldwin Road between West County Line Road and Satterlee Road came before the Board to discuss the Board's recent decision to rename this section of Baldwin Road to Slawson Lake Road in response to a request from the county's Central Dispatch Authority. Sharon Barber stated that the residents spoke with Carol Swainston and Erica Riches of Central Dispatch Authority at a Eureka Township meeting a year ago to discuss a proposed name change, and at that time it was agreed to drop "W" off the road name. Mrs. Barber also said that at that township meeting Ms. Swainston and Ms. Riches stated that there were no safety issues. One of the residents stated that there had been a fire on both ends of the road and emergency personnel responded quickly without any problems. Karen Swan explained to the residents that the "W" that was formerly on the road name sign was for directional purposes only, and it did not mean that the road had been "West" Baldwin Road; furthermore, Central Dispatch probably is also thinking of the other residents along the section of Baldwin Road located east of Satterlee Road, East Baldwin Lake Drive and West Baldwin Lake Drive and trying to alleviate some of the confusion with having four roads with similar names in very close proximity to each other. Mrs. Barber stated the residents met again at a township meeting this past March, which was attended by Erica Riches, and the township board, except for the supervisor, voted that the road name should not be changed. The residents stated they do not understand why the Road Commission would make the change, even though it has the final authority in this regard. Mrs. Barber and Mr. Heuring also were upset that their house numbers were being changed, and the Board advised them that the Road Commission had nothing to do with that matter. The three residents stated that they want to protest the road name change and would like the Board to reconsider its decision. The Board advised the residents that they will review the matter and contact them before the next board meeting, but in the meantime the road name change stands, effective May 1, 2006.

Manager's Report

- Pavement marking on the east half of the county has started.
- Vickeryville Road between Condensery Road and Sidney Road has been crushed in preparation for repaving. Some replacement guardrail is being installed at the Fish Creek crossing, culverts are being installed and Rich Buskirk is staking the intersections for curb and gutter.
- The floor in the break room will be painted and sealed on May 5th.
- We have received several phone calls and cards thanking the Road Commission's employees for the past winter's work clearing snow and cleanup after the ice storm. It's nice to know that people do appreciate the work our people do.
- Mechanics are working on the shoulder machine getting it ready for construction season.
- The new mower tractors were delivered and one was vandalized the first day it was out. The mower was parked overnight in a clear vision area on M-66, and when the foreman took the operator out to the mower the next morning, someone had smashed the windshield into the cab.
- At the next meeting Jack and I would like to discuss his upcoming retirement, the Superintendent's position, and some possible changes. We'll also be discussing this at tomorrow's supervisors' meeting to get their thoughts and suggestions.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the contracts with Scott Civil Engineering Company for design engineering services for the replacement of the bridge on Sloan Road over Fish Creek and the bridge on Federal Road over Rice Creek, both in 2008 under the Critical Bridge Program and to authorize the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign said contracts. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

APRIL 19, 2006

Reviewed correspondence from John Berchtold, County Administrator, asking that the county's mittee be placed on an upcoming agenda to discuss the Road Commission's property located on Johnson Road in Montcalm Township.

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

Eureka Township

- Gravel resurface South County Line Road from M91 to River Road - \$9,356.
- Salt stabilize South County Line Road from M91 to Berridge Road - \$7,300.
- Gravel Station Road and Satterlee Road from West County Line Road east around curve to existing pavement in preparation for paving in 2007 - \$34,886.

Home Township

- One application of chloride at 1,650 gpm - \$7,285.
- Two applications of chloride at 1,250 gpm - \$11,038.
- Salt stabilize Peoples Road from M46 to Edgar Road - \$2,920.
- Salt stabilize Church Road from M66 to Peoples Road - \$2,920.
- Seal Edgar Road from Peoples Road to Neff Road - \$15,991.

Pine Township

- Split cost for 2,000 cyd 23A maintenance gravel with Road Commission - \$6,000.
- Salt stabilize McBride Road from Backus Road to Lake Road - \$2,920.
- Salt stabilize Cannonsville Road from M91 west to turnaround - \$2,920.
- Machine wedge and seal Briggs Road from Backus Road to Lake Road - \$12,608.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, that based on the supplemental valuations provided by Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company for the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan, the Board hereby approves opening an early retirement window for Division 1 and Division 10 for the period October 1, 2006 through December 29, 2006 with the following temporary changes during the open window period: upgrade Division 1 from B-2 to B-4 with option F55/15, and upgrade Division 10 with option F55/15. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Superintendent's Report

- The Board's recently adopted Standards, Guidelines and Policies for Roads and Driveways has been added to the website.
- The last time it rained, I checked the high-intensity pavement marking that we did two years ago on Stanton Road west of M91, and it has held up very well and continues to show up very well at night in the rain.
- Are we going to salt stabilize Cannonsville Road (530) east of M91 and Deaner Road (540) west of Gravel Ridge Road again? With the budget as tight as it is we can't do it this year; however, both roads will receive regular chloride applications when the township roads are done.
- CRASIF's annual safety meeting is being held April 27th in Mt. Pleasant; the supervisors will be attending.
- Reviewed the website's statistics. Visits to the website have climbed steadily each year starting with 4,669 in 2001 up to 8,768 in 2005. The first three months of this year we've had 3,163 visits.

Engineer's Report

- A permit along with a letter spelling out conditions was sent to the developers of the Autumn Ridge site condominium project so their contractors can start removing the blacktop and substandard base materials that are causing problems with the pavement
- Checked Wyman Road north of M46 where the pavement had dipped; did not see any indications of any further stress.
- Reviewed amended site plan for Pine Valley west of Youngman Road in Eureka Township.
- NACE conference held in Grand Rapids was good but directed more towards national issues. It was interesting to talk to engineers from other states to see how they do things.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to reschedule the May 3rd meeting to Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 4/19/06 bills totaling \$499,077.31 and Payroll #8 totaling \$72,732.30. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk