

August 16, 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 August 16, 2006.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Jack Johnson, Superintendent; Robert 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 August 2, 2006 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Reviewed proposed adjustments to the 2006 Cash Budget as presented by the Finance Director.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve a total adjustment of (\$321,605) to the 2006 Cash Budget as presented by the Finance Director. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

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

Eureka Township

- Remove and dispose of tree stumps along east side of Johnson Road between Harlow Road and Wise Road - \$2,350.

Manager's Report

- Deaner Road (540) west of Gravel Ridge Road has been graveled; we're keeping it shaped up and watered until the paving can be done. Sandyland Farms has signed the agreement to pay \$30,000 after the graveling is completed and an additional \$30,000 after the road is paved.
- The second round of mowing on the state trunklines is ongoing.
- Met with Carol Smith from LS Engineering today; the preliminary plans for the bridge on Blackmer Road north of Condensery Road have gone to MDOT. It looks like the bridge will be let for bids in early spring.
- Sealing is done but we may have to redo one road. We ran out of slag and used some stone from the Sweet Pit; I haven't seen it yet myself but from what I understand there are some large stones mixed in and it is very dirty.

Superintendent's Report

- The contractor started paving in Eureka Township yesterday; they weren't able to complete everything in the township but will be back to finish. Once the contractor comes back into the county, they should be able to complete the local road paving projects in two days if everything goes well.
- Townships contracting for three applications of chloride will be completed this month, and the five townships that contracted for four applications will be completed by mid-September.

Clerk's Report

- Bob Golm, our agent with Blue Cross, has been researching some health insurance options for the retirees over 65 on Medicare in an effort to help them reduce their health insurance costs—currently a single retiree on Medicare is paying \$349.38 per month; a retiree and spouse are paying \$698.75 per month; and a retiree on Medicare with a spouse not yet on Medicare is paying \$825.37 per month. Bob has three Medigap plans that he would like to present to the retirees and give them the option to vote on which plan they would choose or to stay with what they have now. If Bob can get everything put together, we hope to hold a meeting here with the retirees by the end of September.
- If fuel prices stay about where they are, it looks like we will end up with about \$40,000 left in the fuel budget. If the Board is in agreement, I would like to take part of that to dispose of tires that are piling up at the Stanton garage. Starting with the 2007 budget I am going to have a \$10,000 line item in the budget for tire cleanup. In the past we've let them pile up out back and then applied for a grant from the state to dispose of them—that's worked twice for us but the grant money is getting harder and harder to come by.

Engineers' Reports

Bob Buckowing:

- Reviewed a letter from residents in Pierson Township regarding a drainage problem with an 'orphan' drain on the west side of Daggett Road south of Pierson Road and drains to the west across private properties and down to Big Whitefish Lake. The majority of the water coming to the drain is coming from private properties; however, there is some drainage from the road too.
- According to the residents, the process to make it a county drain would be too costly and they would like us to do something about their drainage problems. The problem is that no one knows who originally installed the drain and the cross-culvert; the drain is an open swale that empties into

AUGUST 16, 2006

- an underground pipe located approximately 80 feet off the road; this pipe fills with dirt and debris and then the water backs up. Our files go back to the 1930s and we don't have anything in our files showing that we purchased or were given any easements across private property in the area where the drain is located. Jack Johnson stated that back when he was the foreman over that area he replaced the cross-culvert that was under the road because it had deteriorated and wasn't working, and after we replaced the cross-culvert Mike Abbott from the Drain Commission had a crew come out there and clean out the drain from the end of the cross-culvert to the west. Bob will do some more research to see if he can determine who installed the drain.
- Two churches have applied for permits to install concrete curb and gutter at their entrances; however, in order to construct the curb according to our specifications, they would have to run the curb past their property line and along their neighbor's property—can we allow that? Tom Mayan stated that the curb should terminate at the property line and the paved flare could continue along the shoulder. If the driveways haven't been constructed yet, why don't they move the driveways over a few feet on their property in order to accommodate the full length of curb? Either way would be okay, but we cannot give them permission to extend the curb past their property line onto their neighbor.
- KBH Homes has started working on Johnson Road south of Wise Road. Their road plan, as approved at a prior board meeting, does not meet our standard as far as the width of the proposed gravel shoulders—our standard calls for four feet and their plan shows two feet. Can we force them to build the road with four-foot shoulders when we've approved their plan? Per Tom Mayan, the fact that the difference wasn't caught doesn't mean they don't have to build the road to our standards. Bob will advise KBH that they will have to comply with the standards.
- The Road Committee in Winfield Township has asked me to look at some of the roads in Indian Lakes and give them recommendations as far as paving, sealing, etc. for a special assessment district. I will be meeting with them; I already advised them that I can't give them firm prices because our prices are only good for the current construction season.

Tom Mayan:

- Discussed the "Jobs Today" program, which is supposed to create jobs on highway and road projects in Michigan, and the funding of "High Priority Projects, which are part of the program. Unfortunately, much of this funding turned into pork barrel projects for some state legislators; it wasn't much help for most rural areas like Montcalm County.
- More bad news—revenues from the Federal gas tax, which is a set amount per gallon just like the states gas tax—are down. So, not only is our state funding continuing to drop, there is talk that we could lose Federal Highway funding too.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to reschedule the September 6, 2006 board meeting to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 due to the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions annual meeting being held September 6-8. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 8/16/06 bills totaling \$360,106.34 and Payroll #17 totaling \$77,361.23. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m

Chairman

Clerk