

July 5, 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 July 5, 2006.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of June 20, 2006 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 open the public hearing at 3:04 p.m. to review the petition request to vacate and abandon Newcomb Road from Douglas Road west 0.3 mile, located in Section 14 of Ferris Township. Motion carried.

Bill Bartlett, owner of property adjacent to the Newcomb Road right-of-way, stated that his family has owned the property for over 100 years. There have been ongoing problems with people trespassing, dumping trash, and coming to his home at all hours asking for help to get their vehicles pulled out when they get stuck off the road. Mr. Bartlett stated that he is definitely in favor of the right-of-way being abandoned.

Jim Wilson, owner of property adjacent to the Newcomb Road right-of-way, stated that he also is in favor of the right-of-way being abandoned. Mr. Wilson stated that his family has owned the property for over 80 years. Mr. Wilson has a hayfield and people drive onto his field, spin around and tear it up.

Doyle Dingman, who was in attendance on behalf of Abraham Schrock, who was unable to attend the hearing due to a funeral. Mr. Dingman conducted a recent auction of Mr. Schrock's property, stated he and another party both have an interest in buying Mr. Schrock's property. Mr. Dingman stated that without access from Newcomb Road, whoever purchases Mr. Schrock's property would have to obtain an easement across his property and as soon as you grant an easement it devalues the property. Mr. Dingman further stated that if the Board condemns the road it reduces the value of the property back there.

There was much discussion between the attendees about what Mr. Schrock should do, could do or would do with his property. Dale Linton stated that two of the abutting property owners are present; however, the third property owner could not attend and as one board member he would like to hear directly from Mr. Schrock. The Board was in agreement and stated it would not make a decision until Mr. Schrock is present and can advise the Board what his plans are and how abandoning the road may affect him.

The public hearing concluded at 3:25 p.m. and the regular board meeting commenced.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to postpone a decision on the request to abandon Newcomb Road in Section 14 of Ferris Township until the August 2nd board meeting. Motion carried.

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

Maple Valley Township

- Gravel resurface Cannonsville Road from Arbogast Road to Marble Road - \$5,746.

Pierson Township

- Salt stabilize Main Street and Lake Drive southeast of Main Street - \$1,437.
- Salt stabilize Maple Hill Road from Trufant Road to Stanton Road - \$1,197.
- Place a 165# bituminous overlay, with valley gutters where needed, on Shorecrest Drive and Lakeview Drive - \$31,413.

Superintendent's Report

- Salt stabilization projects have been completed
- Second application of chloride has started.
- Attended a recent meeting held by the self-insurance pool; they will be holding meetings in various areas to advise road commissions of changes they are making to the way accident investigations will be done and to do training. As soon as the changes have been made, when an accident occurs on a weekend or a holiday Central Dispatch will contact the on-call supervisor and during the week Central Dispatch will contact the area supervisor. The supervisor will make an on-site inspection to determine whether or not the road may have been the cause and notify the sign crew if a stop ahead or stop sign needs to be replaced. If the supervisor feels the road did not cause the accident they will leave the accident scene and return the next day to take pictures. If the supervisor feels the road may have caused the accident, MCRCSIP will be contacted and they will send an accident investigator out to do the actual investigation

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Engineer's Report

- The curb and gutter installed by the developer's private contractor at the River Ridge development located on West County Line Road south of Sidney Road was improperly installed. I have notified the developer that it will have to be redone.
- The Skinner Village development located on Berridge Road south of M57 is on hold. There are problems with the drainage and the developer is having it redesigned.
- Thane Erskin returned to work on Monday.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to reschedule the July 19th board meeting to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 20th, due to the MCRCSIP meeting being held in Mt. Pleasant on July 19th. Motion carried.

Commissioners' Comments

- Dale Linton stated that he recently met with County Commissioner Carl Paepke and John Berchtold, County Administrator, regarding the Road Commission's property located in Section 19 of Montcalm Township. Dale stated that they wanted to know if the Road Commission had any options they favored in regard to selling the property to the County, and Dale stated that he told them to put a proposal together and the Board would look at it.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 7/5/06 bills totaling \$223,285.28 and Payroll #14 totaling \$74,746.86. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes- McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk