

May 2, 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 May 2, 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 McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2006 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Julie Terry came before the Board to discuss Fitzner Road north of Van Deirse Street in Eureka Township. Ms. Terry, whose house is located on the west side of Fitzner Road by the new industrial park, stated that she had been informed by Mayor Lloyd Walker from the City of Greenville that the Road Commission was proposing to pave Fitzner Road up to the township line for the new Ovonic-United Solar plants to be built in the industrial park and that the Road Commission had a public hearing set for May 17th. Ms. Terry stated that in the past she had been assured by the city that the road in front of her house would not be paved and that she is adamantly opposed to paving the road because it would destroy her 100-year-old trees and the value of her house. Ms. Terry further stated that the City of Greenville has no intention of purchasing her property. Dale Linton stated that this is the first he has heard about it and that the Road Commission has no intention of paving the road and there is no public hearing scheduled on May 17th or any other date. Dale Linton advised Ms. Terry that Doug Hinken, City Engineer from the City of Greenville, is on today's agenda at 2:30 p.m. and she is welcome to stay. Ms. Terry stated she would return at 2:30 p.m.

The Board and management discussed the Superintendent's position and another salaried position. Do we fill the Superintendent's position when Jack Johnson retires at the end of the year or can his job be spread to other salaried employees? With revenues falling and fuel and fringe benefit costs increasing dramatically the budget is getting tighter and tighter—do we need to and can we afford to keep this position filled? This position, the other position, and related matters will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

Julie Terry, a resident from Fitzner Road north of County Farm Road, returned to the Board meeting. At 2:30 p.m. Doug Hinken, City Engineer for the City of Greenville, came before the Board to discuss Fitzner Road north of County Farm Road. Mr. Hinken asked if the Board would be willing to transfer jurisdiction of the road from the Road Commission to the City of Greenville. If not, would the Road Commission be a co-applicant for Community Development Block Grant funds to pave the road from the north side of Julie Terry's property north to the township line—just the same as the Road Commission did for the south end just off County Farm Road that was paved last year. Mr. Hinken stated that the plans for the new Ovonic Solar plants call for a paved road that loops around the six planned plants, and that Fitzner Road would be part of that loop on the east side of the plants. Ms. Terry had some questions and comments for Mr. Hinken regarding truck traffic and how it could be kept off the stretch of road in front of her house. Discussed possible signing—will it be observed by truckers? What about school buses? No different than what they are doing now.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve and sign the following township contracts. Carried.

Bloomer Township

- Paint centerline and edge lines on 18 miles of paved local roads in Bloomer Township - \$10,350.
- Gravel Sessions Road from Mt. Hope Road to East County Line Road - \$4,733.
- Gravel Condensery Road from the bridge east of Mt. Hope Road to East County Line Road - \$7,078.
- Gravel Snows Lake Road from Miner Road to Blackmer Road - \$9,465.
- Gravel Miner Road from South County Line Road to Snows Lake Road - \$9,465.
- Gravel Herrick Road from Fenwick Road to Boyer Road - \$9,465.
- Gravel Jenks Road from Blackmer Road to Fish Creek bridge - \$15,144.
- Cut brush, clean ditches where needed, replace culverts and gravel East County Line Road from Sessions Road north to Grant Road - \$17,879.

Crystal Township

- Cut asphalt hill, grade, gravel and place a 250# mat on Ovid Street in Crystal - \$4,327.

Fairplain Township

- Remove and replace large culvert on Carlsen Road south of Nelson Road - \$6,444.
- Salt stabilize Jenks Road from Carlsen Road to South County Line Road - \$2,204.
- Salt stabilize Grow Road / Station Road from County Farm Road to Grow Road - \$2,204.
- Salt stabilize Russell Road from M57 to County Farm Road - \$4,380.
- Gravel the intersection of Station Road at Carlsen Road - \$3,877.

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- Gravel Holland Road from Dick Road to Jenks Road - \$10,107.
- Machine wedge/seal Meadowbrook Drive west of CR506 - \$2,051.
- Place a 220# overlay on Boyer Road from east of Grow Road to Barnes Road - \$31,988.

Ferris Township

- One application of chloride at 1,650 gpm - \$9,572.
- Two applications of chloride at 1,000 gpm - \$11,603.
- Seal Pine Grove Road from Cannonsville Road to McBride Road - \$8,043.
- Seal Douglas Road from Briggs Road to Cannonsville Road - \$8,043.

Richland Township

- Salt stabilize Mt. Hope Road from Deaner Road to Vestaburg Road - \$1,460.
- Salt stabilize Almy Road from Pine Grove Road to Vickeryville Road - \$2,190.
- Salt stabilize Bollinger Road from M46 to Edgar Road - \$2,920.
- Salt stabilize Sanders Road from Crystal Road to Waldron Road - \$2,920.
- Salt stabilize Fleck Road from Douglas Road to East County Line Road - \$2,920.
- Salt stabilize Pine Grove Road from Yankee Road to Schmeid Road - \$2,920.
- Salt stabilize Douglas Road from Tamarack Road to North County Line Road - \$5,840.
- Salt stabilize Edgar Road from Crystal Road to Douglas Road - \$5,840.
- Gravel resurface Vestaburg Road from Crystal Road to Douglas Road - \$23,494.

Members of the county's Parks Commission along with John Berchtold, County Administrator, came before the Board to discuss the Road Commission's property located on Johnson Road south of Sidney Road in Montcalm Township. Mr. Berchtold advised the Board that the Board of County Commissioners has authorized a three-year option for the County Commission to acquire the property if the Road Commission would be willing to do this. The option to acquire the property has to be in the master plan in order to seek grant funding. The Parks Commission is in the process of looking at recreation needs in the county and redoing its five-year master recreation plan. Over the next three years they would like to explore potential uses for the property, e.g. a rustic campground or park, and the funding to develop the property. Carl Paepke, County Commissioner, stated the county is in need of a larger park, and with the price of fuel people are not traveling as far. Don Cooper, Drain Commissioner, stated one of his interests in the park is the Flat River running along the property—the river is an attraction and draws people who like to canoe and kayak. Open space is something the state would like to preserve—some townships and counties levy a millage to purchase open space; however, it usually isn't available for public use. Here is a piece of ground that could be maintained as open space with a small parking area where people could park, get out, walk and enjoy the area; and there is potential for some jobs with a private or public canoe rental. Don stated that he would like to see a five-year option; however, a three-year option would be okay. Franz Mogdis stated that from Montcalm Alliance's point of view development of the tourist industry is very important, and this property could be a critical component. The probability of having access to this kind of property in the future is probably zero. Dale Linton stated that as one member of the Board his feeling is that the Board doesn't plan to sell it in the next few years. Don McCracken stated that he feels the Road Commission is not at a place where it can give the property away. He would have no problem with a three-year option; however, he would like to think about it. This will be further discussed at the May 17th board meeting.

A recess was called at 3:50 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 3:55 p.m.

Residents from the newly renamed Slawson Lake Road, formerly Baldwin Road between West County Line Road and Satterlee Road, came before the Board to appeal the renaming of the road. The residents reiterated what they said in the board meeting held on April 19th—they feel that there is no problem and do not understand how changing the road's name will improve emergency responses. Also present and in favor of the renaming were Sheriff Bill Barnwell, Carol Swainston and Erica Riches from Central Dispatch Authority, and Eric Smith from the Emergency Services Department. Erica Riches, who is in charge of addressing in the county, gave a brief overview of what prompted the renaming of this road and how we got to this point. Sheriff Barnwell advised the residents that this is not about trying to cause problems for the residents but sometimes it is unavoidable—the main concern is about emergency services not getting confused in an emergency situation and with four different roads with the name "Baldwin" in them in such close proximity to each other it's a potential problem waiting to happen—we just want to try to avoid a problem in the future. Everyone who lives in the area knows the road name but emergency personnel may not. Eric Smith stated that he definitely supports the road name change. As someone who has been out there on emergency calls for the last 11 years, I can tell you that we are working under stressful situations and could miss some small detail that could mean life or death. As more and more people move into the county and as new emergency personnel who may not be familiar with the county are hired, it becomes more confusing. Bob Brundage stated that when Erica Riches first approached the board about changing the road's name he did not have much knowledge about emergency situations, but after listening to Erica and the other people who are out there working under these conditions he has to base his decision on their authority regarding emergency situations. He feels he has to submit to their knowledge to make a decision. Dale

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Linton read the Board's previous motion from March 15, 2006 and asked if either board member wanted to rescind it. All three board members were in agreement that the March 15, 2006 resolution would stand as written and the road name will be Slawson Lake Road.

A recess was called at 4:55 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Manager's Report

- Updated Board on the Vickeryville Road project. Culverts are being installed and curb and gutter work has started.
- Centerlines have been painted on primary roads on east side of county; contractor will be back later to put edge lines on.
- Gravel resurfacing will start in Bloomer Township this week.
- Tom Mayan and I attended the federal buy-out meeting in Lansing last week—there were some good points and some bad points—some counties are in favor of selling and others are not. Counties can no longer sell their federal aid to other counties—it can only be sold to MDOT.
- Received a phone call from a township supervisor asking if they could sign a contract with the Road Commission to blade a private road a couple times a year. The Board stated they were not in favor of doing that—don't want to set a precedent.
- Reviewed quotes from Michigan Chloride and Liquid Dust Layer for 38% chloride.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to accept and place on file the quotes for 38% chloride. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report

- Brief review of Blue Cross-Blue Shield's Flexible Blue Plan 2, health savings accounts, and possible savings. If the Board is interested, I will ask our agent to attend a future board meeting to fully explain. The Board was in agreement.

Superintendent's Report

- Salt stabilization started today in Pine Township.
- Chloride applications are scheduled to start on May 16th; plan to do two townships per day. We have two townships, Bloomer and Maple Valley, which have not submitted their chloride contracts yet, so they have not been scheduled.

Engineer's Report

- Have a request from a contractor doing a commercial job on Federal Road just north of Howard City's limits—wants to know if the Board would allow him to construct part of his parking lot in the right-of-way, which is 75 feet from the center of the road. From a liability standpoint, the Board is not in favor of allowing this.
- Have a request from a resident on Westover Drive west of M91 in Montcalm Township to install 90 linear feet of drainage culvert along their road frontage. The Board stated it is not in favor of this because it is too hard to maintain such a long run of culvert.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 5/2/06 bills totaling \$90,461.04 and Payroll #9 totaling \$71,683.96. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk