

OCTOBER 3, 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 October 3, 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 McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2006 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Members of the county's Parks Commission came before the Board to discuss Road Commission property located on the west side of Johnson Road south of Sidney Road in Section 19, Montcalm Township. Carl Paepke, County Commissioner, advised the Board that the County Board of Commissioners granted authority to the Parks Commission to offer the Road Commission \$10,000 for a warranty deed to purchase the property for the sole purpose of future development of a county park with the Road Commission retaining the following first right of refusal: If Grantees (County Board of Commissioners) no longer have a use for the property for the public benefit of the residents of Montcalm County, Grantees shall so notify Grantors (Road Commission) in writing. Grantors shall then have 60 days from the receipt of that notice to exercise an exclusive option to repurchase the property for the sum of \$10,000. Carl Paepke stated that no grants are available at this time. Don Cooper stated that he thinks there are other grants available, but they would be more readily available if the County owned the property rather than the Road Commission. Don Cooper also stated that if the land is not developed into a park, it should revert back to the Road Commission. John Berchtold, County Administrator, stated Carl Paepke was talking about grants to purchase the property not to develop it. John Berchtold further stated that even if they were able to obtain a grant it would require a large match from the county. Franz Mogdis stated that the County needs to be able to show ownership of the property in order to be eligible for funds from the DNR, so they can market the county for tourists, trails, festivals—parks would be key to that. Don McCracken stated that he was not ready to make a decision today and that he wanted to think about it. Robert Brundage asked if the county's master plan was contingent upon this property. Franz Mogdis stated it was not; the current plan only looks at the five existing county parks; but the Parks Commission will be broadening the plan and looking at how it can be developed. Updating of the plan is going to go ahead, but this property would be a key element. John Berchtold stated that they have a consultant from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission helping them, and he has looked at the site. Don Cooper stated that the Parks Commission feels it is important to identify the type of use, e.g. rustic or modern campground, canoe launch site, etc. in the next five-year master plan; the Flat River is conducive to family canoeing. Bob Brundage stated that he also is not ready to make a decision today. Dale Linton asked about an earlier offer to trade property near Schmeid Lake, and Carl Paepke stated that was something that could be looked at. Don McCracken stated that the Road Commission was offered \$155,000 for the property and it was appraised for over \$300,000. Don stated he is not against the idea of developing parks, after all the Road Commission was the only entity that stepped up to sponsor the development of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail and continues to do so; however, he is concerned about how the county will maintain another park especially when funding is so tight. Dale Linton suggested and the Board agreed that they would reply to the Parks Commission's offer at the November 1st meeting.

Clerk's Report

- Advised the Board of Attorney Michael Cavanaugh's phone call earlier today and outlined the proposed settlement regarding Spring Grove Road. The Board stated that it has no objection to the proposed settlement.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to change the starting time of the October 18, 2006 board meeting from 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. to allow enough time for the meeting prior to meeting with the townships at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 10/03/06 bills totaling \$91,101.70 and Payroll #20 totaling \$68,636.59. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to appoint Jack Johnson as Interim Managing Director in Randy Stearns' absence, effective October 9, 2006 and until further notice, and to permit Jack to sign payroll checks and/or general account checks. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk