

September 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 September 5, 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 August 16, 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 approve the township contract with Evergreen Township to add 700 cyd 23A gravel and 1,500 gallons chloride to the existing work order to gravel resurface Pakes Road at a cost of \$5,615. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept the bid from Jeremy Petersen to remove and dispose of dead deer from public county roads and state trunklines for a period of one year. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Road Commission for Montcalm County has received a request to discontinue and abandon the following section of Newcomb Road, a public right-of-way under the Road Commission's jurisdiction: A 66-foot wide strip of land with the centerline described as commencing at the centerline of Douglas Road and traveling west 0.30 mile; said right-of-way is located in Section 14, T11N, R5W, Ferris Township, Montcalm County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, an on-site review of said right-of-way was done by the Managing Director and it was determined that no buildings are located along the road; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Montcalm County held a public hearing on July 5, 2006 and August 2, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is determined by the Board of County Road Commissioners that it is in the best interest of the public that jurisdiction of the above-described road right-of-way be absolutely abandoned and discontinued; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be published in a newspaper printed and circulated in this county, once each week for three successive weeks, a copy forwarded to the Montcalm County Register of Deeds, the Ferris Township Board, and the Michigan Department of Transportation and a copy of same be placed on file.

Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Manager's Report

- We have one road that was recently sealed that needs to have a portion of it resealed and one road that was on the general work order list but wasn't added to the wedge and seal list and didn't get done. I've spoken with both township supervisors and neither one had a problem with doing these two roads next year.
- The paving contractor has its small-project crew in and is paving today and possibly tomorrow. They will be back at a later date with the large-project crew to finish up the last few projects.
- We received a letter from Scott Civil Engineering advising us that soil borings have been done on Sloan Road at Fish Creek and Federal Road at Rice Creek.
- Mowing is ongoing; gravel resurfacing is winding down.
- Pavement Recycling, Inc. has offered to extend its price for crushing to next year.
- The labor agreement allows us to set a 10-hour day/4-day week schedule anytime between the spring and fall time changes, but normally we start around mid-April and end around early to mid-October—what is the Board's feeling? I'd like to suggest we extend it until October 29th when the time change occurs because it does save us some money on fuel and less time lost going to and from job sites. The Board concurred; 10-hour days will continue through October 29th.
- What is the Board's feeling regarding the level of maintenance for the upcoming winter season—do we cut back from what we have done in the past? No, winter maintenance is one of our primary and most important functions and with the economy the way it is, people and businesses need to have some assurance that they will be able to get in and out—within reason. We can't guarantee anything, but we need to provide the best service we possibly can—after all, we all are here to serve the public. If we have to cut costs next spring or summer, we'll have to look at it then.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to accept Pavement Recycling's offer to extend its price for the 2007 construction season. Motion carried.

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Due to decreased funding and a resultant lack of road projects, the Board discussed a temporary (four to six weeks), voluntary layoff for employees in the truck driver classification. The net savings of a temporary layoff wouldn't be a large amount of money, but it would help. The past two years of decreased funding and increased fixed costs—especially fuel—has put a squeeze on the Road Commission's finances. It has already caused us to forego equipment purchases and primary road projects this year, and the forecast for next year doesn't look much better. These financial constraints reduced the number of primary road projects, and with the decreased number of local road projects due to the townships' budgetary constraints, the number of road projects we did have to do are pretty much wrapped up. If we started the layoff period by September 18th, the truck drivers should be back to work before the snow flies; and if not, we can always call them back.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to establish a temporary (four to six weeks), voluntary layoff for employees in the truck driver classification, the number of employees to be determined by the Managing Director based on need, commencing Monday, September 18, 2006 and ending on Sunday, October 29, 2006 and with the understanding that laid off employees may be called back to work earlier than planned due to weather or emergency conditions. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Clerk's Report

- I have been working on next year's budget and should have it completed for the next meeting. Things don't look very promising as far as revenues or funds available for equipment purchases or road projects again next year—primary road projects will all depend on what we get in the way of federal aid and about \$100,000 of that will be going to Greenville for a new transit bus.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to set a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. on September 20, 2006 for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2007 General Appropriations Budget. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

- In the next two weeks the last five townships will be getting their final application of chloride for this year.
- The paving contractor came into the county last Friday and is here again today and tomorrow. After they finish tomorrow, all that will be left to pave is several township projects and 540 in Winfield Township and 530 in Douglass Township.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 9/5/06 bills totaling \$505,324.84 and Payroll 18 totaling \$113,642.34. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk