

APRIL 18, 2007

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 April 18, 2007.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Mark Christensen, Superintendent; Bob Buckowing, County Highway Engineer; Tom Mayan, Consulting Engineer and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of April 4, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Ray Leyrer and several residents from Spring Grove Road in Sidney Township, along with Larry Ek, township trustee, came before the Board to discuss the pending suit regarding the status, private versus public, of Spring Grove Road. According to Mr. Leyrer, the plaintiffs in the case plan to replace their attorney, who is now the probate judge, and collect enough money to try to get the case in front of a judge. Randy Stearns suggested that defendants, who want the road made public, go through Circuit Court to amend the plat. Tom Mayan stated that if there is any opposition it would still end up in court. Years ago four of the lots in the plat were sold to the DNR in order to develop a public access to Derby Lake; however, the agreement that was made with the property owners does not address the roads leading to the public access—it does not stipulate that the roads would be changed from private to public. The commissioners' opinion is that even though the Road Commission, for some unknown reason, started maintaining the road approximately 40 years ago, the Board does not want to spend any more money on legal fees, and because it is private according to the plat and some of the property owners want it to remain private, the board members feel we should no longer maintain it. The property owners will be meeting with the township board next week, and the consensus of the Board was that we would continue to maintain the road until the next Board meeting and make a decision after hearing what transpired at the township meeting.

Superintendent's Report

- Will be meeting with the Solid Waste Committee tomorrow afternoon to discuss improvements to the east side of Federal Road at Cannonsville Road in Pierson Township. There is an open seat on the Committee; would the Board have any objection to me volunteering for the seat? No objection.
- John Wall from ASU will be here next Wednesday for safety training.

County Highway Engineer's Report

- Mark and I will be attending a meeting at Pierson Township tonight to discuss the township's plans for Main Street at Little Whitefish Lake. The township board will determine what gets done there.
- MDOT has a project scheduled on M91 from just north of Wise Road to Peck Road; working with them on some drainage issues.

At the Board's request Bob Golm, the Road Commission's agent with Blue Cross-Blue Shield, came before the Board to discuss changing the Road Commission's health insurance plan in order to reduce costs. Mr. Golm proposed that the Road Commission change its Community Blue PPO plan to BCBS's Flexible Blue-Plan 2 along with individual health savings accounts; this change would reduce annual costs by approximately \$100,000. Mr. Golm also proposed offering Priority Health's "PriorityMedicare" plan to retirees 65 and older in order to reduce the retirees' current health insurance costs, which the Road Commission does not pay for and which have increased greatly over the last several years. Mr. Golm stated he would hold an informational meeting with the retirees over age 65 to explain the plan and the savings they would realize to see if they, as a whole, would want to change from their current Medigap plan with BCBS to the Priority Health plan.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to change the Road Commission's current health plan for active employees and retirees under age 65 to Blue Cross-Blue Shield's Flexible Blue-Plan 2 effective July 1, 2007. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to offer Priority Health's "PriorityMedicare" plan to retirees age 65 and older. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

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

Belvidere Township

- Three applications of chloride on local roads at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$23,112.
- Gravel Edgar Road from Miles Road to Hillman Road - \$11,607.
- Gravel Hillman Road from M46 to Horseshoe Lake - \$17,411.
- Seal various roads, to be determined, in Schmeid Park - \$9,779 per mile.
- Machine wedge/seal Holland Road from Fleck Road to North County Line Road - \$35,812.

Bloomer Township

- Four applications of chloride on local roads at a rate of 1,000 gpm - \$12,847.
- Seal Jenks Road from Dailey Road to bridge - \$1,597.

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- Seal Dailey Road from Mt. Hope Road to South County Line Road - \$10,837.
- Machine wedge/seal Bloomer Street from M57 south 1,030 feet - \$4,375.
- Machine wedge/seal Garlock Road from M57 to Boyer Road - \$15,993.
- Machine wedge/seal Boyer Road from Garlock Road to East County Line Road - \$21,252.
- Machine wedge/seal Waldron Road from Fenwick Road to South County Line Road - \$24,024.
- Machine wedge/seal Blackmer Road from M57 to South County Line Road - \$49,870.
- Place a 180# bituminous overlay on Boyer Road from Blackmer Road to Garlock Road - \$42,051.

Crystal Township

- Four applications of chloride on local roads at a rate of 1,000 gpm - \$25,729.

Douglass Township

- Gravel Kendaville Road from Grow Road to Musson Road - \$17,894.
- Gravel Nevins Road from Kendaville Road south to existing pavement - \$9,543
- Salt stabilize Briggs Road from Musson Road to M66 - \$3,649.
- Salt stabilize Klees Road from Musson Road to M66 - \$3,649.
- Machine wedge/seal Musson Road from Lake Montcalm Road to Kendaville Road - \$12,822.
- Machine wedge/seal East Shore Drive at Lake Stanton - \$25,495.

Eureka Township

- Three applications of chloride on local roads at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$16,767.
- Salt stabilize Shearer Road from Greenville's city limits to Wise Road - \$1,570.
- Salt stabilize South County Line Road from M91 to Berridge Road - \$4,561.
- Split cost for 2,000 cyd 23A maintenance gravel with the Road Commission - \$6,100.
- Gravel West County Line Road from M57 to Slawson Lake Road - \$15,419.
- Gravel Barber Road from West County Line Road to Satterlee Road - \$12,335.
- Place a 250# bituminous overlay on Woodvale Court's cul-de-sac - \$1,910.
- Place a 250# bituminous mat on Mason Road approach to M91 - \$4,480.

Pine Township

- Three applications of chloride on local roads at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$16,824.

Winfield Township

- Three applications of chloride on local roads at a rate of 2,000 gpm - \$36,323.

Manager's Report

- Pavement crushing on the Fenwick Road project between Crystal Road and Mt. Hope Road started today.
- Discussed proposal from Bloomer Township to advance money to the Road Commission to extend the project on Fenwick Road two more miles from Crystal Road to Senator Road.
- I spoke with Susan Richardson from MDOT; she advised me that next week we should be receiving the contract to sell our Federal Aid funds to the State. In order to expedite return of the contract and receipt of the funds, do I have the Board's authority to sign the contract?

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to authorize Randy Stearns to sign the contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the sale of the Road Commission's Federal Aid funds. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Discussed the new Greenville Foreman's 90-day performance review and authorized increasing his wage by one-half of the agreed amount, retroactive to March 15th, with another performance review to be done June 15th.

Consulting Engineer's Report

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) has done a study on the use of Federal Aid funds in all 50 states and how the funds are being monitored and spent. The FHA has concluded that, especially in rural areas, it is more feasible for entities to sell their Federal Aid dollars to their state; however, the FHA feels the states should be paying dollar for dollar—not 75 cents on the dollar as Michigan does.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to change the May 2nd meeting to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1st. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 4/18/07 bills totaling \$192,135.89 and Payroll #8 totaling \$75,175.26. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk