

APRIL 4, 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 4, 2007.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of March 21, 2007 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 Condensery Road, in Eureka Township. Mrs. Terry stated that the City of Greenville, in accordance with an agreement with the Road Commission, has been grading the road and they have systematically been cutting down the elevation in front of her house and the end of her driveway. Mrs. Terry stated that the road is to the point where the water that used to stay north of her property now runs down and collects in front of her house and floods the road. Mark Christensen stated that he had spoken with Mike Chesser from Greenville's DPW and the City has some crushed pavement material to fix the portion of Fitzner Road by the Terry's property. Mike Chesser is not against putting some gravel on the road once the construction trucks are done running the road to the Solar Ovonics plant. Mark stated that we need to ditch across the Terry's front yard and install a driveway culvert to make it better, but it will be an ongoing problem until construction is completed. Mrs. Terry stated the contractor told her that once the portion to be paved has been paved, they would be using that road and not the portion that runs by the Terry's house.

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

Bushnell Township

- Four applications of chloride at 1,000 gpm on local gravel roads - \$23,519.
- Gravel Sessions Road from Cedar Lake Road to Senator Road - \$5,181.
- Gravel Staines Road from M57 to Sessions Road - \$10,361.
- Gravel Stevenson Road from M57 to Boyer Road - \$10,361.
- Gravel Stevenson Road from Boyer Road to Fenwick Road - \$10,361.
- Gravel Station Road from Staines Road to Stevenson Road - \$10,361.

Douglass Township

- Three applications of chloride at 1,650 gpm on local gravel roads - \$29,471.
- Gravel Hillman Road from Briggs Road to Hillis Road - \$5,965.

Evergreen Township

- Three applications of chloride at 1,650 gpm on local gravel roads - \$28,243.

Sidney Township

- Gravel various areas in Sidney Township - \$17,615.
- Gravel Woods Road east of Derby Road - \$7,162.
- Machine wedge various areas in Sidney Township - \$11,938.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve and sign the contract with Andrews Material Testing Services for the 2007 construction season. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve and sign the title sheet for the Critical Bridge project on Blackmer Road over Fish Creek, which is located in Sections 34 and 35 of Crystal Township. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

- Spoke with Michigan CAT about extending payments on grader #97 and #98. Next year is the last year of the lease-purchase agreement; we will have to come up with \$214,000 for the payoff. If the financial situation doesn't improve soon, we may not be able to come up with the money for the payoff next year. The Board directed Randy to get some options and firm numbers from Michigan CAT for the next board meeting.
- Starting next winter we will no longer be able to buy our salt from MDOT's salt that they stockpile at our three garages. We either have to purchase our own salt and stockpile it along with MDOT's in the storages or we can purchase salt through Kent County Road Commission's bid and then bill MDOT, plus overhead, for what is used on the state trunklines.
- Based on recommendation by Scott Civil Engineering, we closed the bridge on Derby Road (585) south of Station Road in Fairplain Township until repairs can be made. Scott also suggested that the bridge be placed on the Critical Bridge list.

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- Called Susan Richardson at MDOT about our buy-out funds from our Federal Aid allocation; she has been out of the office and I haven't heard back. No counties have received their money yet, but I spoke with two other counties and they have finally received their contracts with MDOT. I don't think we will get our funds for a while; the state will hold onto them as long as possible in order to collect the interest. With these funds we plan to crush and re-pave Fenwick Road from Crystal Road to Mt. Hope Road this summer. The spring breakup on Fenwick Road is really bad and the road needs extensive patching—do we patch it or go ahead and have it crushed even though we don't have the funds yet? If we patch it and then turn around and crush it in a couple months, the patch will be a waste of time and money, but we can't leave it the way it is. The cost to patch it would be about \$7,000 for materials; the cost to crush it would be about \$13,000. Per the Board, go ahead and have it crushed.
- Attended the press conference regarding the state's gas tax in Lansing yesterday. It was a good turnout; quite a few people spoke. Organizations that usually are not in favor of any increased fees or taxes spoke out in favor of the increase—they know that without better roads the economy in Michigan is not going to improve.
- We are going to take quotes on blades earlier than usual, because we heard today that the price of blades would increase by the middle of the month. The cost of tires is expected to go up later this month.

Clerk's Report

- This month's MTF check is down \$16,322 compared to the April 2006 check.
- Reviewed letter from Attorney Michael Cavanaugh regarding Spring Grove Road in Sidney Township. Sidney Township has informed its attorney that they will no longer participate.

Superintendent's Report

- Spring breakup—some roads are good and some aren't. Fenwick Road between Crystal Road and Mt. Hope Road is the one primary road that I have seen that should be crushed as soon as possible. There are some other areas that we will have to look at, such as on 530, but right now they're not as bad as Fenwick Road.
- After the last board meeting, I checked the bridge on Reed Road north of M46; there are no weight restrictions and the bridge looks like it is in good shape.
- The last NIMS class will be held tomorrow; we should be compliant after that.
- Township work is ongoing. Some contracts have been received; many more to come. I've spoken with all of the township supervisors except one, which I have had a hard time contacting; however, I have found out who chairs their road committee and have spoken with him.
- We had talked about the possibility of sealing Bailey Road through Coral, but I think the condition of the road is beyond a regular sealcoat. The FiberSeal may work, but it's definitely beyond plain sealcoat.
- Bing Braman was in today and asked if there is any possibility that we could salt stabilize Colby Road between Vickeryville Road and Strait Tow Boulevard—the cost would be about \$2,600. Per the Board, look at it later this spring and see how the road is doing.

Engineer's Report

- I have called Scott Civil Engineering about the Critical Bridge paperwork for the bridges on Federal Road north of Kendaville Road and on Sloan Road south of Sidney Road.
- Main Street in Pierson Township has been staked by Tingley. We are scheduled to go over there next week and look at it with the township representatives.
- Rich is working on drawing the Federal Road at Cannonsville Road improvement project for the Solid Waste Committee.

Commissioners' Comments

- Donald McCracken asked about availability of maintenance gravel. There is a small amount left at Braman Pit, there is some at the Johnson Pit and we have 3,150 yards left from what we purchased at the M66 Pit north of Anderson's Orchards. There is another pit between Fenwick Road and Boyer Road and Halliday Sand and Gravel would be willing to set up a stockpile at the Fish Creek Pit east of town on Stanton Road, but it would have to be bailed out of the water.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 4/4/07 bills totaling \$320,570.98 and Payroll #7 totaling \$71,064.46. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk