

AUGUST 1, 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 August 1, 2007.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of July 18, 2007 as presented and with a correction to the meeting start time, which was 9:00 a.m. not 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Donald Aikens, owner of a building which houses the post office in Fenwick and is located on the northwest corner of Fenwick Road and First Street, came before the Board to request approval of a permit to allow the building to encroach on the public right-of-way. Mr. Aikens stated that the building was constructed in the 1950s and he purchased it in the 1970s. Mr. Aikens stated the township supervisor, Jan Hallihan, recently advised him that after taking some measurements he believes the building encroaches about six to eight feet onto the road right-of-way on First Street.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve Donald Aikens' request for a permit to allow the encroachment of the current Fenwick Post Office building on First Street, on the north side of Fenwick Road, which is located in Section 24 of Fairplain Township, with the following contingency: If said building is ever removed or destroyed it shall not be reconstructed within the road right-of-way. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

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

Bloomer Township

- Machine wedge where needed on local roads in Bloomer Township - \$9,400.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to appoint Randy Stearns as the voting delegate at the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions (NMARC) annual meeting being held in September and to appoint Randy Stearns as the voting delegate and Karen Swan as the alternate delegate for the County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund annual meeting being held in conjunction with the NMARC meeting. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

- Mowing is ongoing; started the second round on state trunklines.
- We finally received our Federal Aid funds on July 26th. The contractor is crushing Bailey Road south of Coral today.
- Received a phone call from Michael Cavanaugh regarding the Spring Grove Road litigation. The Court called him and stated the case needs to be settled or dropped. Advised Mike that the Board had notified the residents that the Road Commission would no longer maintain the road after July 31, 2007 and that the Road Commission was not going to spend any more money on this case.
- Spoke with Senator Cropsey's representative, Craig Starkweather, this morning regarding the discontinuance of the prison crews effective August 17th. Senator Cropsey is discussing the matter with the Department of Corrections.
- It's early, but has the Board thought about the level of winter maintenance this coming winter? With funds continuing to drop and costs continuing to rise, can we afford to continue the same level of service as in the past? If we have a bad winter, will we have enough funds to cover the cost of overtime, fuel and materials? We need to be thinking about this—soon.
- Money is very tight, but we need to look at upgrading the two-way radio system. The current system is 20 years old and the radios are the old crystal type. They are obsolete and many times the repair service cannot get parts. I have asked Chrouch Communications to get us a quote so we have an idea what the cost would be.

Engineers' Report

- In preparation for the Fenwick Road paving project, we will be crushing the top inch or so of pavement on the bridge deck.
- The curbing contractor hopes to start the Bailey Road and Fenwick Road projects soon. Everything depends on the weather; if it's too hot the concrete will set up too quickly.
- The contractor may start moving in tomorrow on the Blackmer Road Bridge project; probably won't start actual work until Monday.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 8/1/07 bills totaling \$304,058.65 and Payroll #16 totaling \$69,574.81. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.