

JULY 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 July 18, 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 July 3, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

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

John Powell of Powell Excavating came before the Board to discuss his client's need to install a new septic system across the road from his house at Clifford Lake Circle. The current septic system has failed and the Health Department is requiring his client to build a raised septic field across the road in order to have enough distance from his well. Mr. Powell's client had applied for a permit to cross the road and was told it would have to be bored because this is a paved road; however, according to Mr. Powell, having to bore under the road rather than open-cut the road will not work very well because the boring would be too deep for the raised system to work properly.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to allow an exception to the normal permit requirements and allow Mr. Powell to make an open cut across Clifford Lake Drive provided that sand, aggregate and asphalt be replaced and the road repaired to the Road Commission's satisfaction. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Reviewed the two bids received for the Cat Scraper. Michigan CAT had the high bid of \$55,000. Discussed the pros and cons of keeping the scraper—a lot of money has gone into rebuilding the scraper in the last few years and though we don't utilize it very much there are times when it is useful. The consensus of the Board is that we will keep the scraper and keep track of how much we utilize it.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to reject all bids for the Caterpillar 615C Scraper. Motion carried.

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

Cato Township

- One application of chloride at a rate of 1,000 gpm - \$7,903.

Manager's Report

- Spoke with Susan Richardson of MDOT on Monday; we should finally be receiving our Federal Aid funds either this week or next week. Susan said the voucher has been approved, signed and sent for payment. Called Pavement Recycling to schedule the crushing of Bailey Road south of Coral in anticipation of receiving the funds. They will be here the week of July 30th.
- Still no news from MDOT on the Greenville salt storage building. Even if they were to come up with the funds, it is getting too late in the season to start the project.
- Fisher Transport in working on gravel resurfacing projects; L & D Carey has their gravel projects just about done. Central Asphalt is paving today.
- The new test wells at the Hattie Drake brine well site are in; a field sample was taken by the testing company, and the results showed a very low concentration. Samples have been mailed in for further testing.
- Received a phone call yesterday to inform us that prison work crews are being eliminated statewide, effective August 17th, in order to reduce the state's budget. Have already contacted our legislators and we can discuss it when we meet with them on Monday. This doesn't affect only the Road Commission it also affects the Drain Commission, the Parks Commission, townships, cities and villages. The prison crews provide services that we cannot afford to do otherwise—even in the best of times.
- Spoke with Ron Miller from Miller Development; they plan to start the bridge project on Blackmer Road north of Condensery Road by the end of this month; completion date is September 28th.

Superintendent's Report

- Second round of chloride applications has been completed in all townships.
- Per Bob Brundage's request, researched cost of Dow Flake versus the cost of chloride. On average, chloride costs \$239 per mile and to get the same benefit from Dow Flake the cost would be \$700 per mile. Dow's recommended rate of 1.5 pounds per square yard would cost \$3,610 per mile.

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Engineer's Report

- Rich Buskirk and I checked the control markers on Wyman Road north of M46—the road has moved about 1.75 inches laterally and about an inch vertically. The crack should be sealed and we can continue to monitor it.
- The City of Greenville is starting their sewer project today along Fitzner Road to the United Solar plant.
- The head of the DPW in the Village of Pierson called and said they had some funds to do roadwork and asked about working with us at the intersections of their streets with Federal Road. The Clerk pointed out that Federal Road is still under the jurisdiction of the Village—we have not received anything stating that they transferred the jurisdiction back to the Road Commission.

Clerk's Report

- At yesterday's council meeting, John Niemela of the County Road Association informed the council members that the state is estimating that next year's MTF will be down compared to this year—which will be the fourth straight year of declining revenues. It is estimated that the MTF will decrease by at least 2.5 percent and that realistically we should figure more than 2.5 percent when budgeting for next year. On top of that, keep in mind that in February the final payments are due on the two CAT graders; and since we didn't have up-front payments on these lease-purchases, we will have to pay over \$100,000 on each grader on the back end of the lease-purchases.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 7/18/07 bills totaling \$442,643.14 and Payroll #15 totaling \$69,146.04. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Chairman

Clerk