

JUNE 20, 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 June 20, 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 June 6, 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 the City of Greenville's plan to install a water main, within the right-of-way in front of her property on Fitzner Road, to the new Solar Ovonics plants in the industrial park. Mrs. Terry stated that she wanted to go on record that she is opposed to a utility trench within the drip line of her 140-year-old maple trees, and that valve boxes could be hit by snowplows. Doug Hinken, City Engineer of Greenville, was also present and provided plans showing where the water main will run. Mr. Hinken stated that it will be moved closer to the road to avoid, as much as possible, Mrs. Terry's trees and that the city has no plans to remove the trees. Mr. Hinken stated that the city's standard location for a water main is 12 feet off the centerline and sanitary sewer is generally in the center of the road, and the city does not plan to have valve boxes near the road where they would be open to damage by snowplows. Mrs. Terry stated that from an engineering standpoint she cannot see why the water main can't be placed on the east side of the road. Mr. Hinken stated that possibly they could shift it a little farther to the east, but he does not want to move it to the east side of the road because there are overhead lines and in the future a sanitary sewer may go in there and it would cross the water main in two locations; he would like to avoid that. Mr. Hinken stated that the work on the water main would start in about two weeks. The Board stated that Mr. Hinken would have to work with the Road Commission's engineering department and that Bob Buckowing should spell everything out on the City's permit but that they would encourage the City to move the water main as far as possible to the east. Mr. Hinken brought up the possibility of a cul-de-sac being constructed at the north end of Mrs. Terry's property to discourage through traffic and provide a place for snowplow trucks, trash trucks and school buses to turn around. Mrs. Terry stated she's not sure if she wants the north end closed off or not but wouldn't mind the privacy it could provide. No decision was made about a cul-de-sac at this time.

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

#### Douglass Township

- 165# bituminous overlay on East Shore Drive at Lake Stanton from Stanton Road north 0.43 mile - \$25,737.

#### Maple Valley Township

- Gravel resurface Lake Montcalm Road from Arbogast Road west to the township line (share cost with Winfield Township) - \$5,866.50

#### Winfield Township

- Gravel resurface Lake Montcalm Road from Arbogast Road west to the township line (share cost with Maple Valley Township) - \$5,866.50

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve a resolution to request reimbursement in the amount of \$10,000 for payments made during the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 to licensed professional engineers employed or retained by the Road Commission in accordance with Section 12(2) of Act 51, as amended. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the Agreement between the Road Commission and the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail for Phase VI, which runs from Coral Road in the Village of McBride northerly to Gilson Street and then east to Sheldon Street in the Village of Edmore, of the trail. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

#### Manager's Report

- Seal-coat stone is being delivered to various locations this week.
- Preconstruction meeting for the Blackmer Road Bridge was held last week; work should be starting in the near future.
- Recently spoke with Mike Petersen about purchasing diesel and bio-diesel fuel again under fixed contract pricing during a fixed period of time and for a fixed amount of fuel in an effort to reduce diesel fuel costs. This worked to our advantage this past winter and hopefully will again. Mike will get back to us with more information and anticipated pricing.

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- Two employees have come in and expressed concern about selling the scraper. Even though it gets very little use, they feel we should keep it in case we need it for something. I explained that we are taking bids, and that outcome will determine whether or not we sell it—it depends on the bids. Can we justify keeping a piece of equipment that gets very little use, when we have to keep insurance on it and keep it maintained?
- Mark and I attended a public works meeting with local agencies in Montcalm County. We explained the mutual aid agreement that we have with some of the surrounding county road commissions and how it has worked this past winter. The group determined that it would like to put together a mutual aid agreement between the various governmental agencies within the county based on what we've done with the other road commissions. We will be working to put together a similar agreement.
- Spoke with Andy Ilieff today; he informed me that MDOT's 2007 salt shed program has been cancelled due to budget restraints. Andy stated that the program would roll over into 2008; however, the funding situation doesn't look very promising for then either.
- Contacted Senator Cropsey and Representative Emmons about setting up a meeting to discuss road commission concerns and the funding dilemma facing road agencies.

#### Superintendent's Report

- With the signing of today's township contracts, this part is pretty well wrapped up; working on moving things forward now.
- Paving projects in Fairplain Township and Montcalm Township have been completed; most of Eureka Township's paving projects are done except for the Satterlee Road-Station Road project.
- Second round of chloride applications starts next week.
- Salt stabilization projects are coming to a close—working on the last roads today. Changing from one application of 38% chloride to two applications of 26% chloride seems to be working better at less cost to the townships.
- Planning to start seal-coat projects in mid-July.
- Haven't done very much gravel resurfacing yet, but that will be picking up shortly.
- Mowing—Greenville area will have everything done by July 1<sup>st</sup>; Stanton area is getting down to the end on county primary roads; and in the Howard City area a great majority of primary roads and paved local roads will be done by Thursday night. All state highways are done and look good; the expressway looks really nice.

#### Engineer's Report

- The Blackmer Road Bridge project is tentatively set to start the week after July 4<sup>th</sup>; the planned completion date is September 28<sup>th</sup>. Working on agreement with MDOT for materials testing; this has to be in place before the project starts.
- Scott Civil Engineering has been doing the design engineering for the proposed Critical Bridge project on Sloan Road; the engineer's estimate is \$492,000.
- Discussed fence around the park on Warrior Drive at Indian Lakes. The lake association wants to replace the fence, which is in the right-of-way, with a chain link fence because they're having problems with vandalism and theft. They would like to put the new fence where the existing fence is located. The Board stated it has no objection since the park is located on a dead-end road with low traffic volume and a low speed limit.

#### Clerk's Report

- Reviewed correspondence from Bill Tingley of Montcalm County Remonumentation, regarding the 2008 program and the price increase of \$200 per corner and a request for increased funding. The Board stated that due to the Road Commission's financial situation, we cannot increase the amount we contribute but we will continue to contribute the same amount as we have the past several years though it will mean remonumentation of fewer section corners.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, that based on a six-month review the Greenville Foreman's annual wage is to be set at \$45,427 effective June 15, 2007. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 6/20/07 bills totaling \$686,076.28 and Payroll #13 totaling \$66,141.04. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk