

JUNE 6, 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 6, 2007.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of May 16, 2007 as presented and with a correction to the date in the first paragraph. Motion carried.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept the offer from B&B Environmental Services to extend its current bid price for catch basin cleaning to 2008. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to set a public hearing at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3, 2007, for the purpose considering a request to vacate and abandon the public road right-of-way for Division Avenue as shown on Sunny Side Terrace Plat, which is located in Section 9 of Montcalm Township. Motion carried.

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

Cato Township

- Place a 200# bituminous mat on Tamarack Road from Satterlee Road east to village limits - \$20,715.

Pierson Township & Solid Waste Committee

- Crush existing pavement on northbound shoulder, remove curbs on east side of Federal Road at Cannonsville Road, extend 36" culverts under Federal Road, install 316 lft B2 concrete curb and gutter, pave tapered by-pass lane on northbound Federal Road and approach on Cannonsville Road - \$10,376.50 each

Pierson Township

- Place a 180# bituminous overlay on Lake Montcalm Road from Federal Road to Amy School Road - \$30,677.
- Salt stabilize Lake Montcalm Road from West County Line Road to US131 - \$1,824.50

Reynolds Township

- Three applications of chloride on local roads at 1,650 gpm - \$16,688.
- Salt stabilize Lake Montcalm Road from West County Line Road to US131 - \$1,824.50
- Salt stabilize Gordon Road from Cutler Road to North County Line Road - \$1,825.
- Salt stabilize Tamarack Road from a point 0.75 mile west of Dagget Road to a point 0.25 mile east of Dagget Road - \$1,825.
- Salt stabilize Almy Road from Dagget Road east to end of pavement - \$2,007.
- Salt stabilize Whitefish Road from Lake Montcalm Road to M82 - \$2,372.
- Salt stabilize Reed Road from Yankee Road to North County Line Road - \$2,737.
- Salt stabilize Gates Road from Amy School Road to West County Line Road - \$5,474.
- Salt stabilize Dagget Road from Gates Road to Cutler Road and 0.25 mile of Tamarack Road between north and south Dagget Road - \$5,584.
- Place a 180# bituminous overlay on Lake Montcalm Road from Federal Road to Amy School Road - \$30,677.
- Seal Dagget Road from M82 to Gates Road - \$15,809.

Winfield Township

- Gravel resurface Bailey Road from Deaner Road to Church Road - \$5,972.
- Gravel resurface Deaner Road from Marble Road to Bailey Road - \$5,972
- Place a 250# bituminous mat on Huron Drive from Blackfoot Trail to East Suwanee - \$10,298.
- Crush, shape and pave with a 220# bituminous mat on Almy Road from Arbogast Road to Paepke Road - \$61,679.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Road Commissioners of Montcalm County hereby approves Contract No. 07-5256 between the Road Commission for Montcalm County and the Michigan Department of Transportation for:

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Non-motorized pathway work along a public easement from Coral Road northerly to Forest Road and along Forest Road from the public easement easterly to Sheldon Street for the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail; including grading, aggregate base, and hot mix asphalt paving work; and all together with necessary related work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Dale Linton, Chairman, and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk, are hereby authorized to sign said contract.

Motion carried.

Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve adjustments totaling \$418,026 to the 2007 Cash Budget as presented. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Manager's Report

- Reviewed a letter from the Solid Waste Committee thanking us for the use of our facility for the annual hazardous waste drop-off.
- Reviewed a letter from a resident in Pierson Township asking why we recently replaced cross-culverts under Dagget Road and Long Road yet we haven't moved the cross-culvert by his residence even after several requests by the resident. The cross-culverts we replaced on Dagget Road and Long Road had failed and needed to be replaced; however, the cross-culvert at the resident's location is working, except when he blocks it off with bags of cement. We have advised the resident several times that the water from the road is getting to the ditch, running down to the cross-culvert, which is located where the water would naturally flow if the road wasn't there, and is dumping on the other side of the road; but the resident wants us to install a cross-culvert under the road before the water can get to the ditch by his property, which would require constructing a ditch on the opposite side of the road to a place where the water can be dumped. The Superintendent stated that he had checked the location more than once and that water was not standing anywhere—everything was dry. The situation started a few years ago when the resident's neighbor brought fill in to build up his property, and according to the resident the neighbor is now dumping more water onto the his property. We have explained that our concern is the water from the road going to the ditch and that we have no control over the water outside the right-of-way that is running from his neighbor's property onto his. It is my understanding that the Drain Commissioner also looked at the situation some time ago and advised the resident that he would have to provide an easement to the Drain Commission before they could do anything, and so far he has not done this.
- Bids were opened for the replacement of the bridge on Blackmer Road just north of Condensery Road in Crystal Township; Miller Development, Inc. was awarded the bid. The preconstruction meeting will be held here next Monday.
- Slag for sealcoating has been ordered and is being delivered.
- Roadside mowing has started.
- Mark and I will be attending a meeting at Kent County Road Commission to discuss the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. Those of us who have already signed the agreement will be there along with other counties who are looking at the possibility of joining or starting mutual aid partnerships in their areas. More counties are interested in this concept and it is gaining momentum.
- Spoke with Susan Richardson at MDOT about Federal Aid funds; she said the contract finally went to the Advisory Board on May 31st and we should have the funds within 45 days.
- Spoke with Andy Ilieff at MDOT about the Greenville salt storage; he stated that project has not been cancelled; however, the funding is frozen.
- Discussed selling the scraper; Board directed that it be advertised for bids.
- Mark Christensen's six-month wage review is due today. Mark has been doing a very good job—especially working with township officials and the public. Board members stated that they have heard good comments about Mark and the job he is doing and they are very pleased too.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to set the Superintendent's annual wage at \$52,624 effective immediately. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

- There will be two or three more township contracts turned in by next meeting, and that will be it for this year.
- Pierson Township and the Solid Waste Committee both approved the contract to build the by-pass lane on northbound Federal Road at Cannonsville Road; preliminary work has begun.
- Chloride has been applied to gravel roads in 19 of the 20 townships; one was postponed due to rain but will be done next week.
- No news on Spring Grove Road at this time.
- We started paving last Friday in Eureka Township and Montcalm Township; we have more roads ready to go when the contractor comes back into the county.
- Maple Valley Township asked that if it is at all possible, that we do Bailey Road an additional mile down to Briggs Road instead of Cannonsville Road this year.

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- Presented suggestions for changes to the Local Road Policy and ways to equalize spending between the townships for local road maintenance, primarily maintenance gravel, with the possibility of freeing up money now spent on local roads for the primary road system.

Engineer's Report

- As stated earlier, Miller Development got the bid for the Blackmer Road bridge. Their bid was \$487,000, which is about \$100,000 or 18.43% below the engineer's estimate.
- Mark has a good suggestion about setting up a gravel program for the townships. I would suggest taking the miles of gravel road in each township and come up with a percentage based on total miles of local gravel roads—it would be the fair way to do it. In Gratiot County they set a maximum amount of gravel for each township and the drivers know how much maintenance gravel they can haul during the year.
- Suggested that the Road Commission look into applying for safety funds to improve intersections, sight distance, etc. These funds are available and while you can't use them to pave a mile of road, you can use them for safety improvements that you don't have the funds to do yourself. There is a local match of up to 20 percent but it would be worthwhile looking into. Tom will send a link to Mark so he can check on MDOT's website.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 6/6/07 bills totaling \$393,233.72 and Payroll #12 totaling \$68,590.77. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Chairman