

MARCH 5, 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 March 5, 2007.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the minutes of February 21, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

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

County Commissioners Carl Paepke and Ron Baker along with Tom Lindeman came before the Board to discuss the Federal Road-Cannonsville Road intersection project that was done last year. Discussed a group of small trees on the west side of Federal south of Cannonsville; the Committee would like these removed to improve sight distance. Bob Buckowing stated there is almost double the amount of sight distance required, which leaves more than enough time for a car to pull out. Mr. Paepke stated that the concern is trucks pulling out because they take more time to get going. Mark Christensen stated that the trees could be cleaned up in about a day, but we need to wait until the snow is done. Mr. Baker stated that it was their understanding that when last year's project was done, a by-pass lane was going to be paved on the east side of Federal Road so vehicles could continue moving northbound when a truck is stopped to turn west. Mr. Baker stated that around 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. is the worst time for traffic; sometimes 10-12 vehicles are backed up when a truck is stopped to turn west. Bob Buckowing stated that it had been discussed, but there was an additional cost, which had been provided to Dixie Ward but had not been agreed to. Mr. Baker stated that since the actual cost of the work done last year came in so much lower than the estimate, there is money available to build a proper by-pass lane. Mark Christensen suggested that concrete curb and gutter be placed along the full length of the by-pass lane in order to keep vehicles within the lane—it would be safer and would eliminate the edge breaking off. Bob Buckowing will do an estimate to improve the by-pass lane, and have it to the Solid Waste Committee for its March 15th meeting.

Manager's Report

- It was a very busy weekend for our crew; when they went home Saturday night all roads had been opened. We did have to get some of the drivers out again on Sunday afternoon to clean up some of the state trunklines and major primary roads. Last night the wind blew hard and caused a lot of drifting; the crew was back out by 3 a.m. this morning.
- The decision to lock in fuel prices has worked out well for us so far—it's saving about 19 to 20 cents per gallon at this time.
- Home Township is open—what does the Board want to do? With the funding situation and other considerations, can we get by for a while and see where things stand later in the year? Storms like we had this past weekend stretch our manpower as far as it can go, but if we can get through the next 30 days, things should start to calm down.

Superintendent's Report

- I cannot stress enough the attitude of our employees over this past weekend—the best I have ever seen. Everyone knew it was bad and they all worked together to help each other out—they worked hard for a lot of long hours and should be commended for doing a great job.
- The NIMS Compliance classes are set up on March 13, March 27 and April 5.
- Advised Board of cost to mill and chloride one mile of pavement versus the cost to patch—the first-year cost to mill and chloride would be equal to approximately 187 tons of summer patch material, applied by our forces; subsequent years would be equal to 95 tons of summer patch because the milling cost applies to the first year only.

Clerk's Report

- Finally received a reply from MERS regarding a quote for the Premier Health program; they are unable to underwrite our group at this time.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the year-end 12/31/06 road certification as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by Linton, to approve the 3/7/07 bills totaling \$155,814.41 and Payroll #5 totaling \$88,562.89. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk