

NOVEMBER 21, 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 November 21, 2007.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Mark Christensen, Superintendent; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of November 7, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to open a public hearing at 3:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2008 primary road projects to be done using Federal STP and TED-D funds. Motion carried.

Randy Stearns advised the Board that at this time we do not have an exact figure as to the amount of Federal Aid we will receive, but he is estimating about \$680,000. Following are the proposed projects:

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Bailey Rd (601) from Coral Rd to Briggs Rd (2.5 miles)</u>
Place second course of asphalt on road to complete project started in 2007 | <u>Est. Cost</u>
\$114,425. |
| 2. <u>Briggs Rd/Amble Rd (601) from Bailey Rd to Stanton Rd (2 miles)</u>
Curb and gutter intersections, crush and re-pave road; pave approaches | \$223,795. |
| 3. <u>Miles Rd/Grow Rd (585) from Church Rd to McBride Rd (3 miles)</u>
Curb and gutter intersections; crush and re-pave first course; pave approaches | \$192,212. |
| 4. <u>Condensery Rd (506) from Vickeryville Rd to Crystal Rd (2.5 miles)</u>
Curb and gutter intersections; crush and re-pave road; pave approaches | \$285,145. |

The estimated costs for these projects are based on this year's cost for asphalt plus an increase. The total cost of the four projects exceeds the amount of federal aid we expect to receive, so all four projects probably will not be done in 2008; one or two may have to be scaled back and completed in 2009. The price of asphalt will also have a bearing on how much can be done; we won't have that information until sometime in the spring, but if the price of oil keeps going up, it will impact asphalt prices and reduce the amount of work we will be able to do. The public hearing ended at 3:28 p.m. and the regular board meeting commenced.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the proposed 2008 primary road projects to be done using federal aid funds and are contingent upon the actual amount of funding received. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Shannon Johnston and Linda Johnston came before the Board to discuss a \$410 vehicle damage claim made by Shannon Johnston. The Road Commission's insurance company denied the claim. Ms. Johnston stated that she passed a Road Commission truck traveling in the opposite direction on Tamarack Road east of Waldron Road and that as she passed the truck gravel came off the sides of the truck and peppered her vehicle and broke both headlights. She also stated that as she traveled further down the road where the truck had come from she could see where gravel had spilled all over the roadway. Karen Swan stated that on the date this happened, the area foreman confirmed that he did have trucks hauling gravel on the road the day that Ms. Johnston's vehicle was damaged. Linda Johnston, Shannon's mother, stated that she had a similar experience with one of our trucks about a week later and asked if the drivers sweep off the gravel that spills over onto the sides of their boxes and if not, they should. Dale Linton asked Ms. Johnston if she has vehicle insurance, and she stated she has full coverage with a \$250 deductible. The Board stated it would be willing to cover the \$250 deductible and Ms. Johnston agreed.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the one-year Website Maintenance Agreement with Jack Johnson, effective January 1, 2008. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the following township contracts for 2008. Motion carried.

Belvidere Township

- Three applications of chloride at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$23,112.

Bloomer Township

- Four applications of chloride at a rate of 1,000 gpm - \$12,847.

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Crystal Township

- Four applications of chloride at a rate of 1,000 gpm - \$26,813.

Day Township

- Three applications of chloride at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$22,552.

Montcalm Township

- Three applications of chloride at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$16,314.

Pine Township

- Three applications of chloride at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$17,879.

Reynolds Township

- Three applications of chloride at a rate of 1,650 gpm - \$16,688.

Manager's Report

- I brought this up several months ago and am asking again—does the Board want to change the level of winter maintenance in any way? The Board stated no change to last year's policy and that it would be up to management and supervision to make the call as to when drivers should be called out at night or on weekends and to what extent they will work on overtime.
- Spoke with MDOT again about the contract for Greenville's salt shed. I was advised that MDOT's ad board meets this week and we should soon have the contract.
- Michigan Pavement Marking has made a written offer to extend the current contracted bid price to 2008.
- The driver in Pierson Township signed the Expressway opening, so Pierson Township and Maple Valley Township are both open. Both townships were posted but no one signed them.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept Michigan Pavement Marking's offer to extend the current year's bid price to 2008. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Superintendent's Report

- Two of the trucks with new boxes are back from Truck and Trailer and two more went down there yesterday.
- Andy Vaughn has been working on enclosing the big, old, single-pane windows and the unused garage door in the truck garage and putting in smaller double-pane windows. Andy has done a really nice job. It looks much better and should help reduce our energy cost.
- The anti-icing truck in Greenville is done and ready to go—the crew in Greenville did a nice job on it.
- Culverts on 601 are all in; if the weather cooperates, we will do them on the other proposed primary road projects.

Clerk's Report

- Handed out a list of savings that could be realized by not filling open positions and temporarily transferring some employees to cover open positions during the winter. The 2008 budget was figured on having the County Highway Engineer's position filled and all township drivers' positions filled—but by not filling some or all of these positions, the labor and fringe benefit savings could be used to purchase one or two badly needed float trucks.

Discussed the three open township positions—Home, Maple Valley and Pierson—and whether or not they should be filled at this time. Taking into account the contract with L.S. Engineering, the net savings on the County Highway Engineer's position will be \$68,000. Based on base wages only (no overtime included) plus the cost of health insurance, pension, Social Security and Medicare, the annual savings for each truck driver position left unfilled is at least \$62,000 per driver. Add to that the workers compensation audit refund we recently received and the 2006 trunkline audit refund due from MDOT, and we could buy one or two trucks. Randy and Mark both stated that they feel at least one of the open positions in Howard City needs to be filled and the Board agreed.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept and approve a resolution from Bloomer Township requesting that the Road Commission erect truck limit signs on Blackmer Road from Boyer Road south to the county line. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 11/21/07 bills totaling \$147,072.31 and Payroll #24 totaling \$65,690.73. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk