

OCTOBER 17, 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 October 17, 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.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of October 3, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the Contract for Engineering Services with L.S. Engineering, Inc. of Greenville and to authorize Randy Stearns, Managing Director, to sign said contract. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Carol Smith, P.E. of L.S. Engineering, Inc. came before the Board to provide a status report on the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail project. Phase VI of the project is done except for a few minor punch list items, which will be addressed. Carol stated that the Heartland Trail project started 10 years ago, and there are two sections left to do in Montcalm County.

A representative for Steve VanHoose came before the Board to discuss Mr. VanHoose's request to abandon and relocate a portion of Slawson Lake Road. Mr. VanHoose proposes to divert traffic onto Lynnwood Drive and Arloa Drive, and Mr. VanHoose would provide right-of-way and pay to build a new road connecting the west end of Arloa Drive back to Slawson Lake Road on the west side of Mr. VanHoose's property. Tom Mayan stated that Mr. VanHoose should first discuss this with the township board, because these are local roads and the township would bear the responsibility for any future improvements or major repairs.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to table Steven VanHoose's request to abandon and relocate a portion of Slawson Lake Road until such time that the Road Commission hears from the township board in this regard. Motion carried.

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

#### Richland Township

- Place a 200# bituminous overlay on the south end of Avenue C, south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, in Vestaburg - \$2,499.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the Winter Maintenance Contract with the Village of Pierson to provide winter maintenance on Federal Road (CR599) within the village limits for the 2007-2008 winter season. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

#### Manager's Report

- The first truck has returned from Grand Rapids after getting the new box installed; the next truck is going down.
- Commissioner Retzloff asked me to convey his concern about the Board's decision to allow Jim Schulte to construct a retaining wall in the road right-of-way on North Shore Drive in Crystal. Mark Christensen stated that the work has not been completed, but once it is, the top of the wall won't be taller than any other structure in the immediate vicinity.
- MDOT is holding its annual winter maintenance meeting next Thursday.
- Ed Housler called about winter maintenance on Spring Grove Road; he wants to know what limits of liability would be. The township is not willing to hold the Road Commission harmless or pay for additional insurance, so the residents are looking at paying to provide the insurance. Tom Mayan stated that since the township doesn't have jurisdiction over the road, they would not have road liability coverage and if it was available to them it would probably be quite expensive—just as it would be for the residents. If the residents are going to pay the Road Commission for winter maintenance and pay for liability insurance too, it would be less expensive for them to hire a private contractor to provide snowplowing services.

#### Superintendent's Report

- If all goes well, paving will be all done today except for Avenue C in Vestaburg.
- Mike Schulz from MCRCSIP will be doing a supervisory training session for all supervisors on Tuesday.
- I've made several follow-up calls with the townships after our meetings and have gotten a lot of good, positive comments from them; even those who have had some road concerns are pleased with what we are doing and the services we are providing.

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Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to reschedule the November 7, 2007 board meeting from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to reschedule the December 5, 2007 board meeting to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 10/17/07 bills totaling \$212,740.63 and Payroll #21 totaling \$53,894.92. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk