

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

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 September 16, 2009.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of September 2, 2009 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 accept the low bid from Jeremy Black, for deer pickup and disposal, for a one-year period commencing October 1, 2009. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to accept the low bid from Liberty Cleaning Service, for office janitorial services, for a one-year period commencing October 1, 2009. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the Trunkline Maintenance Contract, No. 2009-0552, between the Road Commission for Montcalm County and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The term of the contract is from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012. Be it further resolved that the Managing Director and the Finance Director-Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Mark Vysoky of C2AE Engineering; Don Myers, Superintendent of Vestaburg Schools; and Dennis Wright, Richland Township Supervisor, came before the Board to discuss 5th Street between Avenue A and Avenue C in Vestaburg. Mr. Vysoky's firm developed the plans to enlarge Vestaburg High School across the previously abandoned right-of-way for Avenue B south of 5th Street and the related parking areas and traffic flow. Mr. Vysoky stated that buses and parents have been dropping students off on the north side of the school, which creates traffic problems. Under the new system buses will drop students off on the south side of the school and parents will use the north side along 5th Street. Superintendent Myer stated that in order to increase the safety of students being dropped off by their parents along 5th Street, the school is requesting that 5th Street be made a one-way street, from west to east, between Avenue C and Avenue A. Dennis Wright expressed the township board's concern about traffic from athletic events at the fields located west of the school and the board's thoughts that it may be a better idea to make all of 5th Street one way, east to west, from Crystal Road to Caris Road and funnel traffic to Caris Road. Mark Christensen expressed a concern that having a long, two-lane, one-way stretch of road could tempt some students to treat the street as a drag strip. Dale Linton stated that he would be in favor of making the two-block stretch between Avenue C and Avenue A one way at this time, and he further stated that there is always the possibility that it could be changed in the future to encompass the full length if it was shown to be beneficial. Don Myers discussed the need to have time to notify parents, students and the community of the upcoming changes and it was decided to make the change effective the Monday following Thanksgiving weekend, which is November 30th.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve making 5th Street a one-way street going west to east between Avenue C and Avenue A in Vestaburg effective Monday, November 30, 2009. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Superintendent's Report

- This year's township gravel projects will be completed today.
- The Federal Aid projects are very close to completion.
- The Stimulus project on Vickeryville Road south of Stanton Road is scheduled to start next Monday.
- I have been invited to serve on the county's Brownfield Authority. They meet during the day four times a year for about two hours each time. Would the Board have any objection? No objections.
- Still have some paving to do on township road projects. If all goes well, we should be done by the end of the month.
- We continue to work on state trunklines as requested by MDOT.

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Clerk's Report

- Reviewed preliminary 2010 Cash Budget.
- Reviewed correspondence from a resident complaining about boats being docked overnight at the end of the Thelma Street right-of-way in violation of the permit. The Board directed the Clerk to send a letter to the Silver Beach Association.

Commissioners' Comments

- Don McCracken asked about having the Fleet Superintendent attend at the beginning of each Board meeting in order to present a short report and be available for questions and insight into Shop functions. The Board was in agreement and felt it would be better to have observations come directly from the Fleet Superintendent rather than secondhand.
- The Board discussed the vehicle usage policy and its current language, which allows the Managing Director personal use of the vehicle assigned to him. Due to economic trends and public perception the Board stated that it feels the policy should be amended to state that any personal use of the vehicle will be confined to a very minimum and only for brief stops on the way to and from the workplace (de minimus use)—the same as other assigned vehicles. The Board also directed that permanent identification stickers be immediately installed to replace the current magnetic identification stickers on the Managing Director's assigned vehicle.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, that due to economic trends and public perception effective October 1, 2009, the Managing Director shall no longer have personal use of the county vehicle assigned to him. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 9/16/09 bills totaling \$365,194.03 and Payroll #18 totaling \$73,385.58. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.
