

DECEMBER 20, 2012

The Board of County Road Commissioners of Montcalm County held a regular meeting at its office located in Stanton, Michigan at 3:00 p.m. on December 20, 2012.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of December 5, 2012, as presented. Motion carried.

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

#### Public Comments

- Mike Scott, who will be replacing Donald McCracken as a road commissioner on January 1<sup>st</sup> thanked Don for his 24 years of service to the residents of Montcalm County.
- County Commissioner Ron Baker discussed the county's remonumentation program and stated township participation has been very good. The Board advised Mr. Baker that the Road Commission has participated since the very start of the program; however, the past few years it has reduced its annual contribution to the program from \$10,000 to \$5,000 due to reduced funding.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to open the Public Hearing at 3:07 p.m. to review the proposed Fee Schedule. Motion carried.

Reviewed the proposed Fee Schedule, which was last reviewed and approved in 2007. The only recommended changes are for utilities, e.g. electric, gas, cable, etc., and for boring and jacking in the road right-of-way. Mark explained that he and Pat Denton contacted other road commissions and researched how they handle these items and what they charge.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing ended at 3:15 p.m.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the proposed Fee Schedule as presented and make it effective January 1, 2013. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve and sign the title sheet for the annual road certification. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

#### Manager's Report

- For the past two weeks the crew has been blading gravel roads when possible and they were in pretty good shape until we got the rain today. We will be blading again when conditions are right.
- Using Kent County Road Commission's pattern, the shop built air foils for three of the float trucks to see if they will help keep snow off the back of the trucks and rear lights when plowing snow.
- We have not been anti-icing—conditions have not been right; it has been too wet. Carl Hansen from Wexford County Road Commission will be coming down to look at the anti-icing systems on our trucks; they want to try it in their area too.
- Still watching fuel prices. Have been talking with Mike Petersen too; still not the right time to pre-purchase.
- Motor-grader (#92) and loader (#130), both assigned to the Howard City garage, are both in need of engine overhauls. The estimated cost for the motor-grader is \$16,000 and the loader is \$15,000. Tri-County Equipment in Pierson is doing the work, and while the loader is down we are renting a loader from Michigan Cat.
- The three new Ford pickup trucks were picked up yesterday. The front plows are being installed, and the trucks should be on the road next week.
- Chrouch Communications will be here next week to discuss the radio tower located here at the garage—should we keep it or take it down?
- Discussed the three John Deere tractors purchased in 2006 and the possibility of trading them in. With the government discount we got when we purchased them and what they are worth to the dealer for resale, we can trade them in with a very small actual annual cost over the past three years.

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- Reviewed legal opinion from attorney Mike Cavanaugh regarding local financing for the purchase of new trucks or equipment. While on the subject, I would like to recommend that when we ever do purchase new trucks, we get regular dump bodies with slide-in boxes rather than the RDS boxes.
- Meeting with Reynolds Township next month to introduce myself to the new board and go over the Local Road Policy.
- The MTA meeting held at Douglass Township Hall the other night went very well. We had good comments regarding the program we presented.
- Pat Denton and I met yesterday with Chris Hyzer, County Administrator, to discuss repairs to the county's parking lots next year—talked about how we could help them get that done.

Discussed request from the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) to approve an amendment to the CRAM Constitution and By-Laws, Section 1, VIII, for a one-time \$1,000 special assessment to each road commission to provide necessary advocacy resources.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve Amendment to Section 1, VIII to the CRAM Constitution and By-Laws. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 12/20/12 bills totaling \$288,365.35 and Payroll #25 totaling \$76,191.82. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk