

APRIL 6, 2005

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 April 6, 2005.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Jack Johnson, Superintendent; Thomas Mayan, Consulting Engineer; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk. Absent: Bob Buckowing, County Highway Engineer.

Larry Gilbert, Cato Township Supervisor, approached the Board prior to the start of the meeting to the present the township's local road contracts for the 2005 construction season. Two township residents accompanied Mr. Gilbert; one asked about the contract to construct a portion of Cedar Road in Honeymoon Heights and the other asked about having a road ditched to improve the drainage. Mr. Gilbert and the residents left prior to the official start of the meeting.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of March 9, 2005 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 and sign the contract with Andrews Materials Testing Service for the 2005 construction season. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Discussed pavement marking bids, which were opened on February 16th. Clark Highway Services has been the low bidder for several years and the Road Commission has been very pleased with their work; however, this year's low bidder is Michigan Pavement Marking of Wyoming, Michigan. Randy checked the contractor's references and found them to be favorable.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept Michigan Pavement Marking's bid for 2005 pavement marking. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Clerk's Report

- The net proceeds from the equipment auction at Mecosta County Road Commission are approximately \$19,000.
- Reviewed winter maintenance and fuel costs as of March 31, 2005. There is approximately \$23,000 remaining in the overtime budget, however, salt usage on primary and local roads is approximately \$39,000 over budget. We have a balance of \$84,296 in the fuel budget, however, March fuel usage alone was \$42,058. I'm very concerned about fuel costs with six months remaining in this budget year. I suggest that any refunds and the equipment sale proceeds be used to offset the higher fuel costs, if necessary. Now that winter and the worst of the spring breakup are done, I'll have budget adjustments done for the next board meeting so we have a better idea which way to go.

Manager's Report

- The two new mower tractors have been delivered to Stanton.
- Dale, Tom and I looked at the intersection of Nevins Road and Sidney Road earlier today. Tom feels there is enough room to construct a by-pass lane on eastbound Sidney Road at this intersection.
- The time clocks are in; the software has been installed. Time cards have been made up for each employee; we'll start using the timecards shortly.
- Discussed the possibility of crushing several miles of badly deteriorated primary road in Bloomer Township and Maple Valley Township. Randy will contact the township supervisors to advise them that we may be crushing these roads and discuss it with them.
- Wayne Grassley called to voice his objection to the Board's decision to allow snowmobiles use of the road right-of-way. I advised Mr. Grassley that the county's Parks Committee initiated the request and that a public hearing had been held with everyone in attendance in favor of allowing snowmobiles to use the right-of-way.

Superintendent's Report

- Considering all the problems we had with frost coming out of the gravel roads this spring, they have shaped up pretty good. We still have a few closed roads, but they are healing up and we should be able to open them in the next few days.
- The shoulder retrievers are being run—pulling the gravel shoulders back up to the pavement.

Engineer's Report

- Discussed proposed plat on the west side of Johnson Road south of Wise Road in Eureka Township. The developer proposes to construct a strip of 14 homes along the road with 14 driveways coming into the road. The Road Commission's Plat Standards discourage this type of plat—I would encourage a service road within the plat for these lots. Dale Linton stated

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that the same developer has a large plat on the south side Johnson Road at this location; there are interior roads but there are also several homes that have driveways exiting directly onto Johnson Road.

- Just a reminder on the Crystal Enhancement Project—make sure everyone involved in this project is on the same page before signing off on the project.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve and following bills and payroll as presented: 3/23/05 bills - \$197,181.54; 4/6/05 bills - \$293,194.44; Payroll #6 - \$102,512.50; and Payroll #7 - \$79,307.40. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk