

AUGUST 20, 2003

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 August 20, 2003.

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

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the minutes of August 6, 2003 as presented. Carried.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Three members of the Indian Lake Association came before the Board to discuss the turnaround at the dead end of East Suwanee Drive at Indian Lake in Winfield Township. When the plat for this area was drawn, a turnaround was not provided at the end of the road—the road terminated at the end of the plat with no provision for a turnaround. The developer of Indian Lake owned private property beyond the end of the plat and allowed for additional roadway and a turnaround beyond the end of the plat on his private property; however, to the best of everyone's knowledge, there is no written record in this regard. According to the association members, the additional roadway and turnaround have been utilized and maintained for approximately 30 years, and the association and the Drain Commissioner use the road to access a 1,700-foot long dike, which is owned by the association and is used to control the lake's water level. According to the association members, the original developer lost the privately owned property in court; and, supposedly, the new owners want the portion of the road and the turnaround beyond the end of the plat closed because they plan to split the property into several lots and sell it. The association members are concerned that they will not have adequate access to maintain the dike and that the Road Commission, school buses and larger vehicles will not have a place to turn around. There is access to the dike from the other end; however, it is very narrow and would not allow access of vehicles on the dike. Their attorney has advised them that the Road Commission should be able to go to court and claim the road and turnaround under the highway by user statute, and they would like the Road Commission to pursue this. Randy Stearns stated that there is a 66-foot right-of-way on East Suwanee Drive, and if nothing else, a smaller turnaround could be built; however, that does not address the association's need to access the dike. Dale Linton stated that the Road Commission could go through court but would rather not because this would be time consuming and expensive, and right now no one knows for sure what the owners' intentions are in this regard. The association members were advised that the Road Commission will check its records for anything in this regard, and they were asked to keep the Road Commission abreast of any developments.

Les Lillie, Eureka Township Trustee and township liaison, came before the Board to discuss Youngman Road south of M57. Les stated that the township is still trying to find out if their October 2001 board resolution regarding the agreement between the township and the City of Greenville is still valid. If not, the City will have to come back to the township board and ask for a new resolution. Les also stated that he feels a new poll of the residents should be done to see where the residents stand regarding whether or not the north end of the road at M57 should remain open. At last night's city council meeting the council voted unanimously to go ahead with the plans. Dale Linton stated that inevitably the city is going to surround the area and the Boundary Commission won't allow that. Randy stated that he spoke with the city manager, George Bosanic, the other day, and George told him that the Road Commission would be approached soon about relinquishing jurisdiction of the road to the city. Nothing can be decided until more information is received.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve the following township contract, even though it has been turned in after the deadline, due to agreement with the township in October 2002 that the Road Commission would accept the late contract because this contract coincides with another recent contract that the township had to get property owners' approval on and set up a special assessment district. Carried.

Sidney Township

Install concrete curb and gutter at the following locations: Birch Drive at Derby Road, Oak Drive at Derby Road and Pine Drive at Derby Road - \$6,345.

Randy Stearns advised the Board that he had recently spoken with company representatives from Thompson-McCully Oil Company and Michigan Chloride, Inc. regarding the outlook for next year's material prices. With the rising fuel costs, it is very likely that next spring's bid prices will be higher. Randy stated that our bid contracts allow us to extend prices for up to two years if it is mutually agreeable to all parties and that both vendors agreed to his request to extend this year's bid prices.

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Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to accept Thompson-McCully Oil Company's extension of its 2003 bid price of \$0.6425 per gallon for emulsion, applied, for the 2004 construction season. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to accept Michigan Chloride's extension of its 2003 bid price of \$0.14 per gallon for chloride, applied, for the 2004 construction season. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Clerk's Report

- Advised the Board that letters will be sent to all township boards regarding the annual meetings with each township to discuss next year's local road projects. The meetings are scheduled on October 6th, 8th, 13th and 15th. The foremen and Jack Johnson are going to make up maps for each township marked with suggestions for work to be considered by the townships; these maps will be mailed along with the letters.
- Advised the Board that a letter will be sent to all township boards explaining the reasons for the Road Commission's decision to downsize its workforce through early retirement and its decision to disband the grade crew and change the Local Road Policy regarding grade projects.

Manager's Report

- D&D Contracting has completed the primary road sealing projects.
- As of tomorrow, our crews will have completed sealing on the townships' local road projects—things went really well this year and our crews did a really nice job on the crack sealing and sealing projects. Changing from crushed stone to slag has made a big difference too.
- Pavement Recycling has completed pavement crushing on Berridge Road from Fenwick Road to M57 and Stanton Road from Trufant to M91. They are currently working on Crystal Road between McBride Road and M46 and should be done by Friday night. Central Asphalt is planning to re-pave these roads, along 540 in Reynolds Township and several local road projects, in late September or early October. In the meantime, we plan to keep working these roads with the tooth blades and apply chloride when needed.
- I spoke with Randy Carey of L&D Carey and Sons and the gravel-resurfacing contract. They had Halliday Sand & Gravel come back into Warner Pit to re-run their gravel pile to meet specifications and they have now completed the projects in Maple Valley Township and Reynolds Township. Carey still doesn't have approved gravel for the projects in Cato Township, Day Township and Evergreen Township. I reminded Randy Carey that the contract calls for the work to be completed by the end of August. He is supposed to get back with me early next week to let me know if he will be able to do Cato and Evergreen Townships; if not, the next lowest bidder, Fisher Transport, does have approved gravel and can do the work.
- A trunkline agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the County Road Association has finally been settled. MDOT hopes to have the five-year contract to each road commission by early September for approval and signatures. It has been a long and sometimes frustrating process, especially for those of us on the Negotiating Committee, but we finally got a fair agreement and it is nice to have it settled for the next five years.
- We received notification this morning that MDOT's project on M91 south of Greenville will start tomorrow morning.

Superintendent's Report

- Reviewed e-mail correspondence from a resident regarding the condition of a road and the need for something more than maintenance. Jack advised the Board that he answered the e-mail and advised the resident that he will bring this up to the township at the October meetings.

Engineer's Report

- Regarding the Federal Aid project on Stanton Road between Marble Road and A Street in Trufant, the curb and gutter is in place, the contractor is starting to grade the area in downtown Trufant and is hauling the excess millings away. The contractor hopes to have the area from Marble Road to A Street paved by early next week as long as the weather cooperates.
- Stanton Road between A Street in Trufant and Paris Road has been milled and culverts are being replaced. The large culvert is scheduled for delivery next Tuesday. It was suggested that the installation of the large culvert be delayed until after the Labor Day weekend due to the flea market on Thursday and Trufant's festival that weekend.
- Regarding the project on Stanton Road from Paris Road to M91, the concrete bridge railings on the small bridge east of Youngman Road have been saw cut and removed; new guard rail will be installed at this location.

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- Regarding the Federal Aid project on Condensery Road between M66 and Vickeryville Road, the subcontractor has installed curb and gutter at the designated intersections. The other subcontractor has tentatively scheduled the start of pavement crushing on Monday.
- Advised the Board about the Autumn Ridge development at Wise Road and Johnson Road in Eureka Township. The developer wants the Road Commission to certify and maintain the roads in the development; however, the roads do not meet our specifications. The developer will be advised about what needs to be done before the board will consider certification. In addition, the developer will have to provide a right-of-way survey and centerline description, a quitclaim deed for the right-of-way, and provide right-of-way acquisition and road construction costs as required by GASB34. The developer must also request the township board to place the road on the local road system before the Road Commission can consider certifying the road.
- Advised the Board about the planned addition to the Viking Ridge development in Reynolds Township. The developer, who knows what our requirements are from past work on this development, provided very sketchy plans. He will be advised, in writing, that the plans need to comply with information requested in the Plat Standards.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve the 8/20/03 bills totaling \$378,271.67 and Payroll #17 totaling \$113,308.02. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk