

AUGUST 6, 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 6, 2003.

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

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the minutes of July 16, 2003 as presented. Carried.

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

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 the township had to get property owners' approval and set up a special assessment district. Carried.

Sidney Township

Place a 4-inch aggregate base, shape and place a 250# bituminous mat on the following streets on the east side of Nevins Lake: Holly Drive, Oak Drive, Pine Drive, Sumac Drive, Willow Drive, Cherry Drive and Birch Drive - \$63,046.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to designate Randy Stearns as voting delegate and Donald McCracken as alternate delegate to the annual County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund (CRASIF) meeting to be held on September 3, 2003. Carried.

Clerk's Report

- The annual MERS meeting is scheduled on October 1-2, 2003 in Dearborn. The Union employees are required to choose two employee delegates to attend—is the Board in agreement to send two Union employees and cover their room and meal expenses?
- Currently working on next year's budget. Randy has provided me with capital outlay and primary road project numbers; I hope to have a preliminary budget to the board members prior to the next board meeting.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve sending two Union employees as employee delegates, to be chosen by the union membership, to the annual Michigan Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) meeting to be held on October 1-2, 2003. Carried.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to designate Randy Stearns and Donald McCracken as officer delegates to the annual Michigan Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) meeting to be held on October 1-2, 2003. Carried.

Manager's Report

- The joints have been milled on the Federal Road (CR599) from the north village limits of Howard City to M-46 in preparation for the upcoming bond project on this section of road.
- Providing the weather cooperates, seal coat operations will be starting next week—the projects being done by our crew and also the projects being done by D&D Contracting. The contractor is tentatively scheduled to start in Montcalm Township.
- The Federal Aid project on Stanton Road between Marble Road and A Street in Trufant is starting this week. If everything goes well on Stanton Road and the weather cooperates, the contractors should be moving to Condensery Road in about two to three weeks.
- Pavement Recycling, Inc. will be in the county next week to crush existing blacktop on upcoming paving projects. One of the upcoming bond projects is Stanton Road between Paris Road and M-91, and the project calls for crushing the existing pavement prior to shaping and paving the road. In speaking with the paving contractor, we were advised that they probably would not be in the county until late September-early October. This is a fairly heavily traveled road and the Stump Festival is coming up Labor Day weekend—do we crush the pavement now or wait until we get closer to paving it? What is the Board's feeling? The Board feels the road should be crushed while Pavement Recycling is in the county next week.
- The large culvert due for replacement on Stanton Road between A Street in Trufant and Black Road has been given verbal approval by the MDEQ. The culvert has been ordered from the vendor.
- The contractor is scheduled to cut the headwalls on the small bridge on Stanton Road east of Youngman Road tomorrow in preparation for the bond project on Stanton Road between Paris Road and M-91.

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- Halliday Sand & Gravel came back and reprocessed the gravel stockpile in the Warner Pit—it now passes the 23A gravel specifications. There will be no additional charges.
- Bob Buckowing and I recently attended a meeting held by MDOT in Grand Rapids regarding asset management for roads and bridges. Asset management is part of the GASB34 requirements.
- Clark Highway Services hopes to be in the county in about two weeks to do pavement marking on the primary roads in the west half of the county—the east half was done last year.
- The Union has expressed its thanks for the Board's participation in the recent union-sponsored employee picnic.
- On Monday morning, the Union's Chapter Chairman and Vice-Chairman presented three separate letters of complaint to me in regard to a supervisor. We have done an investigation and have spoken to the parties involved—I will handle the matter and reply to the Union.

Superintendent's Report

- All townships that contracted for four application of chloride have had three applications done; the last application will be done after Labor Day. Townships getting three applications will be done by the end of August.
- After seal coat projects are completed, we will get back to mowing on county primary roads and the state highways before Labor Day. All gravel roads in the county should be completed in the next week or so.

Engineering Report

Tom Mayan

- On the Federal Aid project on Stanton Road, there is an issue with the geogrid to be used in the muck section. After the problem we had on Wyman Road, we decided to use a different technique, which places a layer of fabric, the geogrid and another layer of fabric between layers of stone. When the project specifications were written, we included part of a MDOT specification, which included an Army Corps of Engineers specification, regarding the type of geogrid to be used. Based on durability test results, the Corps of Engineers calls for a single-layer grid vs. a three-layer grid; however, all of the contractors specified the three-layer grid on their bids. We are requiring the single-layer grid as specified by the Corps of Engineers; therefore, there will be an approximate \$6,000 increase in the project cost, which will be covered by Federal Aid funds—there will no cost to the Road Commission's funds.
- Tom reviewed the final preliminary plans and cost estimates provided by Scott Civil Engineering for the Crystal streetscape project and explained the cost differences between the original application cost estimate done in 2001 and the current estimate which includes additional drain work. Crystal Township and the Crystal DDA are working on the lighting issues to get a better idea of the cost.

Bob Buckowing

- The grade crew has moved from the Hillman Road project in Sidney Township and is working on the Snows Lake Road project in Bushnell Township
- The culvert crew is finishing up work for the bond project on Crystal Road between Lake Montcalm Road and M-46.
- Scott Zerka was in today in regard to his and other residents' request made several months ago to change North Shore Drive at Clifford Lake from private to public and to place the road on certification. They have obtained additional right-of-way to meet the 66-foot standard for most of the road; however, at the south end where the right-of-way meets the platted area around the lake, they only have a 26½ -foot right-of-way and are unable to obtain additional right-of-way from the adjoining property owners. Mr. Zerka asked if the Board would be willing to make an exception to the standards. The Board stated that the Road Commission was saddled with way too many narrow roads in the past, especially around the lakes, and it is very difficult to maintain these narrow roads. The Board stated that it would not make an exception. It was suggested that maybe the property owners could provide enough right-of-way that meets Road Commission standards for a cul-de-sac at the south end just prior to the platted area—from that point on the property owners will keep the road private anyway. Bob will advise Mr. Zerka of the Board's decision.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve the 8/6/03 bills and prepaids totaling \$296,179.95 and Payroll #16 totaling \$82,296.56. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk

