

DECEMBER 7, 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 December 7, 2005.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of November 16, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to open the Public Hearing to review the proposed 2006 primary road projects to be done using Federal Aid funds. Motion carried.

Randy Stearns reported that depending on the amount of funds received, which at this time is unknown, the following primary road projects are tentatively scheduled for the 2006 construction season: 1) Pave McBride Road (530) from Grow Road to Musson Road; 2) Pave Fenwick Road (500) from Crystal Road to Mt. Hope Road; 3) Crush, shape and re-pave Vickeryville Road (575) from Condensery Road to Sidney Road; and 4) Place Fiberseal® on CR582 from US131 to Howard City limits.

Randy Stearns advised the Board that he had met with Franz Mogdis, who represents the cities and villages, to discuss Federal Aid funding. Randy also advised the Board that he had discussed transit funding with a representative from the City of Greenville, which has plans to purchase a bus next year using Federal Aid funds.

The public hearing ended at 3:07 p.m. and the regular Board meeting commenced.

Carol Smith of LS Engineering came before the Board to discuss the next phases of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail. According to Ms. Smith the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail (FFMHT) spoke with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), which indicated they have enhancement funds available for 2006-2007. MDOT encouraged the FFMHT to submit an application. Ms. Smith would like to submit an application for the portion of the trail running from Edmore to Riverdale and stated that Gratiot County Road Commission has requested to act as the agent for the portion from Riverdale to Alma. Ms. Smith asked if the Road Commission would be willing to act as the agent for the portion of the project that lies within Montcalm County. The Board stated that as long as the conditions are the same as in the past and a contract is drawn up between the FFMHT and the Road Commission, it would be willing to have the Road Commission act as the agent.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail (FFMHT) are submitting an Enhancement Grant Application to the Michigan Department of Transportation for funding assistance for that portion of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail running from the Village of Edmore to the East County Line at Riverdale; and

WHEREAS, all required matching funds will be from private sources with no local public tax dollars required; and

WHEREAS, the FFMHT has committed in writing to the Montcalm County Road Commission to be responsible for all on-going operation and maintenance of the trail; and

WHEREAS, the FFMHT have agreed in writing to assume liability for all activities on the trail and to maintain at all times adequate liability insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the FFMHT have committed to work with contiguous property owners along the trail to insure minimal impact to their properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Montcalm, supports the aforementioned grant application; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Montcalm, hereby agrees to act as the agent of record for the aforementioned grant application.

Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Scott Zerka and Greg Ray came before the Board to discuss North Shore Drive, currently a private road, which runs south off Briggs Road to Clifford Lake in Section 30 of Douglass Township. The residents approved a special assessment district with the Douglass Township board to pay for the

DECEMBER 7, 2005

construction and paving of the road. Bob Buckowing advised the Board that a warranty deed for the 66-foot right-of-way has been provided to the Road Commission, and the road has been constructed and paved according to the Road Commission's Plat Standards. Mr. Zerka and Mr. Ray inquired about planting ornamental trees along the road and were advised that they should apply for a permit to work in the road right-of-way. Bob Buckowing expressed concern about planting trees too close to the outside edge of the right-of-way, which could hamper farming operations when the trees get bigger. Mr. Zerka and Mr. Ray were advised to keep that in mind when planting the trees. The Clerk advised the Board that the Douglass Township board has provided a resolution to the Road Commission requesting that the road be made a public road and placed on certification.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Douglass Township Board has submitted a request to the Road Commission for Montcalm County to add North Shore Drive, a 66-foot wide public right-of-way, located in Section 30, T11N, R7W, Douglass Township, Montcalm County, Michigan, to the Local Road System; and

WHEREAS, North Shore Drive, commencing at Briggs Road and running south a distance of 2,028 feet to the "T" turnaround, has been constructed in accordance with the Road Commission's Plat Standards,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Road Commission for Montcalm County has reviewed and approved the request for the addition of the above-listed road to the Local Road System;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said road will add an additional 0.38 mile to the Local Road System.

Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Manager's Report

- I spoke with Susan Richardson at MDOT; she still doesn't know how much Federal Aid funding will be available. The President finally signed the Transportation Bill, and she hopes to know what we will be getting in the next two or three weeks. Once we know that, we will know exactly what projects we will be able to do.
- I spoke with the City of Holland about purchasing trucks through Daimler-Chrysler's lease-purchase program. They are very pleased with the program. Is the Board interested in looking at it? The Board stated that it would prefer to wait until after winter and see how things look.
- I spoken with several paving companies about taking bids for next year's paving. I've been advised that if we were to bid now, like we usually do, the prices of asphalt would be about \$9.50 per ton more, which would be an approximately 36 percent increase over last year's mainline paving price. It sounds like it would be better to wait until late winter-early spring to take bids. We may have to get contracts out to the townships a little later than usual and give them a little more time to return the signed contracts, but more than likely we would get a better price. It will probably still be higher than last year, but hopefully not \$9.50 per ton—more like \$4 or \$5 per ton.
- I've received three letters from the Union regarding their recent grievances. Randy reviewed the letters with the Board. The Board took two of the letters under advisement and passed the following resolution regarding the remaining grievance.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to temporarily and for one time only, participate in the purchase of military and/or generic service credit with those employees who provide a current MERS Service Credit Purchase Estimate and payment for the employee's portion of the purchase between December 8, 2005 and December 30, 2005, and contingent upon the grievance regarding service purchase being terminated by the Union. Furthermore, no purchase estimates and/or payments will be accepted after 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 30, 2005. Thereafter, the Road Commission will not accept requests to participate in the purchase of MERS service credit. Employees will still have the option of purchasing service credit; however, they will be responsible for the full cost. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to authorize the Managing Director to pursue the sale of the Road Commission's 2006 Federal Aid funds to the State of Michigan and authorize the Managing Director to sign any related documents. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the following tentative primary road program for the 2006 construction season: 1) Pave McBride Road (530) from Grow Road to Musson Road; 2) Pave Fenwick Road (500) from Crystal Road to Mt. Hope Road; 3) Crush, shape and re-pave Vickeryville Road (575) from Condensery Road to Sidney Road; and 4) Place Fiberseal® on CR582 from US131 to Howard City limits. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to extend the contract for consulting engineering services with Thomas Mayan, P.E. through December 31, 2006. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

DECEMBER 7, 2005

Clerk's Report

- We received the December MTF check; it is down \$18,472 or 5.21 percent compared to the December 2004 check. Year to date (October through December) the MTF is down \$68,602 or 5.26 percent compared to 2004.
- Treasury will be in next week to do the 2005 audit.
- Bill Bryant, Pierson Township Trustee, called and asked if the Board would be willing to participate, with the township and the Solid Waste Committee, in the estimated \$29,000 cost of reconstructing the intersection of Federal Road at Cannonsville Road, which is the road that goes to the landfill. The Board stated that there is nothing wrong with the current intersection. The Board stated that the Road Commission's budget is limited; and if the waste hauling trucks are having problems when turning onto Cannonsville Road it only makes sense that the funds to reconstruct the intersection should come from the tipping fees collected by the County from the landfill.

Superintendent's Report

- All three anti-icing trucks are up and running. Before the first storm, Stanton ran its anti-icing truck and it saved us from having to call people out. The Greenville and Howard City trucks will be anti-icing too.

Engineers' Report

- Bob Buckowing reported that he received a letter from MDOT regarding critical bridge funding. The Blackmer Road Bridge over Fish Creek has been approved for critical bridge funding in 2007. Also, Federal Road over Rice Creek and Sloan Road over Fish Creek have been approved for funding in 2008.
- Tom Mayan advised the Board that under the current critical bridge program, any bridge that is on a federal aid route is *not* eligible for federal critical bridge fund—only state critical bridge funds. Because Federal Road (Old 131) is on a federal aid route, there will be no federal critical bridge funds available, which also means there will not be any historical bridge money available or hoops to jump through. This means that the timing of construction could be moved up so you need to be ready in case it is. The Road Commission needs to contact Scott Civil Engineering as soon as possible about getting contracts for TS&L and construction engineering for these bridges.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 12/7/05 bills totaling \$254,964.14 and Payroll #25 totaling \$95,613.63. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk