

FEBRUARY 1, 2006

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 February 1, 2006.

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 McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2006 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 the installation of streetlights by Consumers Energy at the following locations: 1) Nevins Road at Stanton Road; and 2) Johnson Road at Wise Road. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept and place on file the 2006 gravel resurfacing bids. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to accept and place on file the 2006 metal culvert bids and plastic culvert bids. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to accept and place on file the 2006 catch basin cleaning bids. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to reject Tri-Us Sweeping's bid due to price irregularity, and to accept and place on file the remaining 2006 street sweeping bids. Motion carried.

#### Manager's Report

- Paving and skip paving bids are scheduled for opening on February 28, 2006. I spoke with a vendor yesterday, and he said that another county opened paving bids about a month ago; and their prices increased from \$26-\$28 a ton last year to \$36-\$38 a ton this year—that's a 36% to 38% increase.
- Have been getting calls asking about weight limits; spoke with surrounding counties and right now no one is putting them on except for Barry County. There is no frost in the roads except what develops overnight and is gone by noon the next day. What are we going to do about a Weighmaster when and if weight limits go on? I've made arrangement with Kent County Road Commission to contract their weighmasters. We'll provide our truck and tell them when we want them out; they'll charge us their hourly rate plus fringe benefits—we only have to pay for the actual hours that we use them.

#### Clerk's Report

- Reviewed and approved County Road Association ballots to insert Section 1(a) VII, Article VIII and Section 2, Article II into the C.R.A.M. Constitution and Bylaws and voted for Douglas Mills, Ronald Young, Larry Adams and Robert Sawicki to the C.R.A.M. Board of Directors.
- When does the Board want to open the next early retirement window? An actuarial has to be done before the window can be opened, and since it takes some time to get the numbers I don't want to wait until the last minute.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to request actuarial reports from MERS for an early retirement open window with F55/15 years and upgrade to B-4 for the period October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

#### Superintendent's Report

- It has been a weird winter, and since the last board meeting we have had rain, ice and snow—it has made a mess of the roads. The roads are frozen in the morning, and by the time the roads thaw and we can start working on them a good part of the day is already gone—it doesn't leave much time to blade roads each day. Our people have been patching blacktop and the paved roads aren't too bad, but the gravel roads are bad. Most of the service requests we're getting are about the condition of gravel roads; we're doing what we can when we can, but we're having a hard time keeping up.

#### Engineers' Report

- Tom discussed the Asset Management program for roads and bridges, which takes GASB34 to the next level. Gratiot County is just getting into the program, and all counties, cities and villages, along with the state, will be required to annually report road and bridge improvements, costs and future plans. Eventually you are going to need someone at an engineering tech level who has road knowledge and RoadSoft knowledge to be responsible for the system. The system will only be as good as the person who runs it and manages it; and it is going to have to be done.

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Discussed Sage Drive and developer's request that the road be moved to the east to accommodate building lots on the west side. At this time the Board is not in favor of moving the road, and stated that if the road were ever to be moved, it would not be at the Road Commission's expense.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 2/1/06 bills totaling \$111,893.31 and Payroll #3 totaling \$95,153.50. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk