

JULY 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 July 6, 2005.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Linton, to approve the minutes of June 15, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Dave Hendershott of Roosien & Associates came before the Board to discuss Johnson Road south of Wise Road adjacent to KBH Homes' Autumn Ridge site condo project on the east side of Johnson Road and the KBH Plat on the west side of Johnson Road. At the May 4, 2005 board meeting, Mr. Hendershott stated that he felt Brian Hamersma of KBH Homes would be willing to participate, in the amount of \$35,000, to pave this portion of Johnson Road. At that same time the Board requested an Irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount \$35,000 from Mr. Hamersma with said letter to be provided to the Road Commission prior to construction being started on the KBH Plat. Mr. Hendershott stated that before providing a letter of credit, Mr. Hamersma would like to know if the road would be paved sometime within the next two years—he doesn't want his money tied up for five or six years while his houses are being sold. The Board stated that it is concerned about heavy equipment traffic from Mr. Hamersma's contractors who would be building the KBH Plat and the other plat that he plans to build behind the KBH Plat and how this traffic would affect the pavement. Mr. Hendershott stated that roads in new developments are usually paved before starting construction of the homes and it should not be a problem. Dale Linton stated that he would like to hear from Eureka Township, in writing, to see what their plans are for paving the remainder of Johnson Road from the south end of the KBH Plat and Autumn Ridge to Harlow Road—what is their timetable? Mr. Hendershott stated that he is on the agenda for the township's next meeting to discuss Autumn Ridge, and he would discuss Johnson Road with them and tell them the Road Commission is waiting to hear what their plans are

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Linton, to approve the following township contract. Carried.

Richland Township

Paint centerline and edge lines on Vestaburg Road from M46 to Caris Road - \$690.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Road Commissioners of Montcalm County hereby approves a Cost Agreement for Traffic Signal Control with the Michigan Department of Transportation for MDOT Plan No. 59021-01-008 for the modification of the traffic signal at the intersection of M57 and Satterlee Road in Eureka Township, Montcalm County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Michigan Department of Transportation shall be responsible for 50 percent of all energy and maintenance costs and the Road Commission for Montcalm County shall be responsible for 50 percent of all energy and maintenance costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Road Commission for Montcalm County shall act as the agent for all energy and maintenance billings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Managing Director, Randy L. Stearns, is hereby authorized to sign said contract.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Road Commissioners of Montcalm County hereby approves a Cost Agreement for Traffic Signal Control with the Michigan Department of Transportation for MDOT Plan No. 59043-01-001 for the modification of the traffic signal at the intersection of M46 and M91 in Cato Township, Montcalm County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Michigan Department of Transportation shall be responsible for 75 percent of all energy and maintenance costs and the Road Commission for Montcalm County shall be responsible for 25 percent of all energy and maintenance costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Road Commission for Montcalm County shall act as the agent for all energy and maintenance billings; and

JULY 6, 2005

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Managing Director, Randy L. Stearns, is hereby authorized to sign said contract.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Linton, to approve an Order to Remove Encroachment to Mr. and Mrs. Duane Coalter at 1261 N. Black Road ordering the removal of a split rail fence and rocks from the road right-of-way. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Linton.

#### Clerk's Report

- Reviewed proposed health insurance rates from MERS and BCBSM. Compared to BCBS's rates there would be considerable savings on active employees; however, rates for retirees would increase substantially. The representative from MERS called just before the board meeting and said she had run a quick comparison and thought the overall MERS rates would provide a substantial savings compared to BCBS's new rates; however, I did a quick estimate and don't see how she's coming up with her numbers—I will review them again when I have more time to look them over carefully and bring them back at the next meeting.
- Advised Board that we received the July MTF check today and year-to-date MTF funds are down 18% from this time last year. Road commissions were advised by MDOT and CRAM at the beginning of the budget year to figure a 2.5% reduction in this year's MTF, so this is coming as a big surprise to everyone—Randy spoke with several neighboring counties today and they're all seeing large reductions. Isabella CRC has already laid off 14 employees and Ottawa CRC's employees are working reduced hours (32 hours per week)—and that happened before anyone knew about this month's MTF. MDOT must be getting anxious too because John Joyce from MDOT called this morning and advised that only absolutely necessary work is to be done on the state trunklines until further notice. I will be working on budget adjustments and try to have them for the next meeting. Unfortunately being this late in the budget year makes it difficult to find areas to cut—capital purchases have already been made and projects have been started and these are the two main areas where cuts can be usually made because pretty much everything else in the budget is fixed costs. The amount budgeted for overtime has been exceeded—the overtime spent last week on the Sidney Road project put us over the top, and from here on out we need to keep overtime to a bare minimum—emergencies only. I would like to suggest the following cuts: printing of county maps, miscellaneous capital outlay for Engineering and the Shop, miscellaneous bridge repairs and painting, seal-coat project on primary roads, brush spraying on primary and local roads, curb and gutter installation at Youngman and Wise, curb and gutter installation at Colby and Senator, and the double-seal projects slated for Cannonsville Road east of M91 and Colby Road east of Vickeryville Road—these cuts would save about \$85,000, which is only about half of what we have lost in MTF funds in the last few months alone. We only have two more MTF checks coming in this fiscal year, and if they follow the same trend, we may have little if any operating funds to start the new fiscal year. The Board stated that from here on out there shall be no overtime except where absolutely necessary and also for emergency situations. The Board concurred with the suggested budget cuts except they would like to leave the double-seal projects on Cannonsville and Colby in the budget and see where things stand closer to the end of September; and if possible, we can do them at the end.

#### Manager's Report

- Bob Buckowing and I recently met with officials from Washtenaw County Road Commission to review their plat standards and how they handle site condominiums, land splits, new public and private roads, and new commercial development road requirements. They do not accept any site condominium roads unless they connect two existing county roads—all others are private roads. Land split roads are also private. With all of the new development coming into the area, we really need to update our plat standards.
- Fisher Transportation is gravel resurfacing today in Evergreen Township—gravel projects are about two-thirds done countywide.
- The first course of asphalt is being put down on Sidney Road from Hillman to Derby today; if all goes well, the second course will be put down tomorrow.
- Discussed possible equipment purchases for next year's budget. We need to look at a new excavator and a loader in addition to float trucks, mowers, etc. Discussed whether or not we need to cycle float trucks on a 10-year schedule as we have been doing—with the type of equipment we have nowadays, we could probably go on an 11- or 12-year cycle. Everything depends on next year's budget and what MDOT's MTF revenue forecast will be.
- Are we going to sell our Federal Aid dollars again next year? The Board stated it would like to try it for one more year. Randy suggested that we take next year's funds and look at Federal Aid eligible roads that only need to be overlaid rather than rebuilt.
- Tom Mayan and Bob Buckowing looked at the Crystal Road enhancement project this morning. The project will be finalized and MDOT will be signing off on it.

JULY 6, 2005

Superintendent's Report

- Discussed Deaner Road (540) west of Gravel Ridge Road where it was salt stabilized and the salt was milled into the roadbed. My opinion of milling the salt into the roadbed is that all it does is turn the road upside down—it brings the roadbed up on top. I don't know how it will end up, but right now I don't think it was a good idea and I wouldn't suggest we do it again.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Linton, to approve the 7/6/05 bills totaling \$282,416.13 and Payroll #13 totaling \$78,647.95. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk