

MAY 19, 2010

The Board of County Road Commissioners for Montcalm County held a regular meeting at its office located in Stanton, Michigan at 3:00 p.m. on May 19, 2010.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Mark Christensen, Superintendent; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2010. Motion carried.

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

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the following township contracts. Motion carried.

Bushnell Township

- Replace culvert on Vickeryville Road between Fenwick Road and Boyer Road - \$748.
- Machine wedge/seal Townhall Road from M57 to Boyer Road (1 mile) - \$19,424.
- Machine wedge/seal Townhall Road from Sessions Road to M57 (1 mile) - \$19,424.
- Machine wedge/seal Townhall Road from Boyer Road to Fenwick Road (1 mile) - \$19,424.

Day Township

- Machine wedge/seal Neff Road from McBride Road to Cannonsville Road (1 mile) - \$14,684.
- Machine wedge/seal Neff Road from Stanton Road to Klees Road (1 mile) - \$20,213.
- Machine wedge/seal Neff Road from Briggs Road to Cannonsville Road (1 mile) - \$21,441.

Home Township

- Machine wedge/seal Neff Road from M46 to Edgar Road (1 mile) - \$18,709.

Pierson Township

- Correct drainage and install leach basin on Elmwood Drive between Hillis Road and Cannonsville Road and overlay affected area (150 ft) - \$4,325.
- Spot gravel Trufant Road between Federal Road and Maple Hill Road - \$3,866.
- Machine wedge White Road south of Kendaville Road - \$12,609.
- Gravel resurface Maple Hill Road from Stanton Road to Pierson Road (0.5 mile) - \$5,713.
- Gravel resurface Maple Hill Road from Cannonsville Road to Pierson Road (1 mile) - \$11,425.
- Ditch where needed and gravel resurface Maple Hill Road from Lake Montcalm Road to Kendaville Road (1 mile) - \$14,203.
- Place 180# bituminous overlay on White Road south of Kendaville Road (0.25 mile) - \$20,291.

There was a lengthy discussion about salaried retirees' health insurance benefits and the need to reduce the cost of this benefit. The Finance Director stated that the current plan is not sustainable and while she appreciates the Board's past generosity in this regard, it has been her long-held and often-voiced opinion that this benefit should be eliminated. While this change would be very unpopular with the other salaried employees, we all have to realize that times have changed. People in the private sector have lost their jobs or had to take reductions in pay and benefits—why should we be any different? We are not here to look out for ourselves we are here to look out for the Road Commission. While the hourly employees were not guaranteed retirement under the B4 pension plan, they have lost the chance of retiring under that plan for years to come; consequently this will help reduce our future OPEB costs; yet salaried employees have lost nothing and that is not fair. The Superintendent stated that being on the ISD board he has to look at these types of things from the same perspective that this Board has to, and it is not an easy thing to do—while no one likes to see their benefits reduced, like it or not the hard decisions have to be made. In response to an earlier request from the Chairman, the Finance Director provided the commissioners with a summary of 39 other road commissions' retiree benefits and also an estimated cost analysis based on the current plan and two reduced plans. The Finance Director stated that while it is up to the Board to make these decisions she hopes that rather than just reducing the current plan they will consider eliminating it and go back to the plan that salaried employees used to have and hourly employees still do have—no benefit paid by the Road Commission after reaching Medicare age. The Finance Director also provided a wage summary based on 2009 wages comparing the supervisors' wages to hourly employees' wages. The summary dispels the notion that because the supervisors do not get paid for overtime on weekdays and only straight time if they work on weekends, that some hourly employees, who do get paid for all overtime, are making as much or more than the supervisors—the facts simply do not bear that out. The Board will review all of the information and discuss its options at an upcoming board meeting.

Manager's Report

- A task force meeting to discuss proposed 2011 through 2014 Federal Aid projects is scheduled for June 1st.
- The last culvert is being installed on the Crystal Road project tomorrow. The project is schedule for bid letting on June 18th.

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- Several fuel vendors have expressed an interest to come to board meetings to discuss on-site fueling; they will be set up to come in on different dates.
- Hired two seasonal employees; they started Monday and are working on the expressway.
- Received several quotes from dealers to purchase pickup trucks through the state's extended purchasing program. GM's and Ford's extended purchasing bids will expire soon.
- The pavement-marking contractor plans to start painting the west side of the county in about two to three weeks.
- Reminder—the Board of County Commissioners is holding a public hearing on the proposed County ORV ordinance at 1:45 p.m. on Monday, May 24th.

Superintendent's Report

- The joint repair project on US131 is going well; working on the southbound lanes at this time. So far 35 slabs have been done.
- Chloride applications started this week. Doing eleven townships in one week and being so short-handed has made things very hectic, but everyone is working together to get it done. The remaining nine townships will be done next week.
- The remaining township contracts should be coming in next week; however, there may be a couple of townships whose contracts may come in shortly after the May 31st deadline.
- The culvert replacements on Pierson Road are done and with the final culvert replacement on Crystal Road tomorrow, the Federal Aid projects will be ready.

Commissioners' Comments

- Discussed the need to purchase some new vehicles. Under the current circumstances there never seems to be a good time to spend money on vehicles, but we are spending so much to keep some of the pickup trucks running it is getting out of hand—it is to the point where we would be farther ahead to bite the bullet and replace them. The Manager will obtain some more quotes based on various options.
- The Chairman stated that he would not be able to attend the June 16th meeting due to a CRASIF Board of Directors meeting on that date.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to reschedule the June 16th meeting to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23rd. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 5/19/10 bills totaling \$185,020.33 and Payroll #10 totaling \$66,490.57. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk