

NOVEMBER 5, 2003

The Board of County Road Commissioners for Montcalm County held a meeting at its office located in Stanton, Michigan at 1:00 p.m. on November 5, 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 McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve the minutes of October 15, 2003 as presented. Carried.

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

At the request of Bob Brundage, a brainstorming session was held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to discuss new technologies and different ways of doing things—thinking ‘outside the box’. Discussed new paving technology—in Europe they use a coarser, more open type of pavement; however, the base has to be built properly so water can seep through the pavement and down through the base. Per Tom Mayan, in Europe they excavate the road base and place five to six feet of sand and gravel as a base—the cost would be prohibitive. Discussed sealing a road right after it is paved—do test areas over a mile or two of newly paved road—new pavement, new pavement plus a single seal immediately after the road is paved—a double seal immediately after a road is paved. Tom stated that a single seal might have some merit—wherever you do test areas, the road chosen should have a uniform base so for comparison purposes. Tom suggested that the Road Commission might want to consider different types of polymers in the asphalt mix. Bob Buckowing suggested that we go back to priming gravel roads prior to paving in order to seal the gravel before it is paved. Randy stated that the paving companies no longer do this—they don’t even have the equipment to do it anymore. Tom Mayan stated that back when they used to prime roads prior to paving, the prime material had a petroleum base; however, because of environmental requirements, prime material is now mostly water and doesn’t work the same. Discussed installing drainage tile along the road edges of newly paved roads—Tom Mayan stated that Clinton County and Midland County have done this in some areas; they had an agricultural contractor plow in the tile and fill it with pea gravel. It’s important to have an outlet and to keep the ends of the tiles cleaned out or water will back up into the road base and damage it. We need to look at gravel roads too—the salt stabilization is new for us but it seems to be working quite well. Don McCracken stated that no matter what, we are always going to have problems because Montcalm County has so many varying soil types—you can run into several different soil types within a one-mile stretch of road; whereas in Gratiot County it’s pretty uniform and they don’t run into the same problems we do. Dale asked why we don’t spread brine on the trunkline shoulders anymore—it helps hold the shoulders up by the edge of the pavement. MDOT won’t allow it anymore. We should look at doing it on primary roads—it could cut down on the amount of maintenance we have to do on shoulders and the amount of gravel we have to continually replace. Discussed paving primary road shoulders at heavily used intersections to provide a bypass around vehicles turning left onto a road—we’ve already done this in some areas and need to keep this in mind when planning projects. Tom Mayan stated that he has worked for this Road Commission for 27 years and he has seen a lot of things being done differently but better than in the past.

Mr. Bud Howard came before the Board to discuss a drainage issue on his muck field, which is located along Sloan Road north of M-57. The road was recently part of a grade project and was raised up and a portion of the road was ditched. A 12-inch cross-culvert was replaced with a 15-inch culvert, and Mr. Howard feels the changes are going to cause more water to drain onto his property. Engineering recently took shots; and if anything, he should get less water because water that used to run down the hill to his property will now be running down the other side of the hill and away from his property. Furthermore, if the road wasn’t there water would still drain to Mr. Howard’s field because it is the natural water flow. Mr. Howard stated he has had drainage problems in this field for several years ever since the Drain Commission broke a field tile when they were cleaning the drain several years ago. Dale Linton asked Mr. Howard if he had contacted the Drain Commission to get the field tile fixed. Mr. Howard stated that he didn’t notice the problem until a couple years later. Dale suggested that Mr. Howard and Bob Buckowing meet on site with the Drain Commissioner to see if something can be worked out and then report the findings back to the board.

Paul VanKooten of Miedema & VanKooten Engineering came before the Board to request an exception to the Plat Standards for Olivia Lane in the Viking Ridge Plat located off Lake Montcalm Road between Amy School Road and US-131 in Reynolds Township. The temporary turnaround on Olivia Lane was built and recently paved, but it does not meet Road Commission’s standards for a temporary or permanent turnaround. Since the developer plans to make these public roads, the right-of-way and the turnaround will have to be enlarged and paved to a 60-foot

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radius. It was decided that the developer will provide temporary, additional right-of-way to the Road Commission by an easement within the plat in order to provide the necessary right-of-way to enlarge the current turnaround; and if at some future time the road is extended, the turnaround will be demolished by the developer and the easement will be voided.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to authorize an easement for a temporary revisionary turnaround at the end of Olivia Lane in the Viking Ridge Plat in order to provide a 75-foot right-of-way for the cul-de-sac, as required by the Plat Standards, and hereby require the developer to enlarge the cul-de-sac's paved area to a 60-foot radius. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to cancel the December 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting due to the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commission's annual meeting be held on that date. Carried.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to increase the base wage for Tom Miles (Stanton Foreman-North Area) by \$4,000 (retroactive to October 1, 2003) due to increased responsibilities brought about by changing his area of supervision from five to ten townships, along with the increased number of employees supervised, due to the retirement of the Stanton Foreman-South Area in August 2003 and the Board's decision to consolidate these two areas under one foreman. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

#### Clerk's Report

- Due to budget constraints and possible reductions in revenues, I suggest that we put off capital equipment purchases as approved in the FY2004 budget until after we get through the winter and see how that affects the budget. By that time we should also have a better idea what is happening with our MTF funding. The Board concurred.
- Last Friday Randy and I attended a MERS meeting in Lansing. As you know, MERS is developing a group insurance program for life, disability and health insurance. Due to the large buying power of all the municipalities that are MERS members, MERS feels it can obtain reasonable group rates. They have already obtained quotes and have accepted the numbers provided by Standard Insurance for life and disability insurance, and the rates are significantly lower than what we are now paying. Standard Insurance is highly rated and has provided group insurances for municipalities for over 50 years. If we enroll by the end of this year, the rates would be locked in through 2005. I will be sending a request for a quote, based on the exact same plan we now have for life and disability insurances, by the end of this week. MERS is now developing several PPO-type health insurance plans based on what the majority of the municipalities in MERS now use—they plan to have the health insurance plans available January 1, 2005.

#### Manager's Report

- The contractors are working on the two outside garage—steel is supposed to be delivered next week. The contractors want to get the buildings enclosed so the concrete floors can be poured. The contractors are aiming for a mid-January completion date.
- L.D. Carey and Sons and High Grade Materials have both offered to extend this year's gravel prices to the 2004 construction season. The current bid documents allow for a one-year extension of the bid price as long as it is acceptable to both parties.
- Tony Gallagher has been promoted to Area Foreman and will be taking Tom Miles' place when Tom retires at the end of the year. Tom is working with Tony and 'showing him the ropes'. Tony will be going around and meeting the township supervisors, and we will be sending a letter to the townships advising them of the upcoming change.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to accept L.D. Carey and Sons' and High Grade Materials' offers to extend their current year's bid prices for gravel resurfacing for the 2004 construction season. Carried.

#### Engineers' Report

- A price has not been obtained yet to correct the drainage by the sidewalk in Trufant—if it isn't done before the end of this year, it will be done in the spring. If we cannot get a contractor in this year, the township should be advised of the status.
- The changes to the Crystal enhancement project have been approved—MDOT has accepted the scope of the project.
- The asphalt base has been put down on Stanton Road from Trufant to M91. The application of the top course depends on the weather—if we cannot get it done this fall it will be put down next summer.
- The grade project on Lake Road between Briggs Road and Cannonsville Road has been shut down for the season—it will be completed next construction season. The trees and brush have been cut and the stumps have been removed.

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Commissioners' Comments

- Dale asked about having an employee meeting and the Board agreed to schedule an employee meeting prior to the next board meeting at 2:00 p.m. on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the 11/5/03 bills and prepays totaling \$343,761.84 and Payroll #22 totaling \$75,385.67. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Lint.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk