

OCTOBER 15, 2003

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 October 15, 2003.

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

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the minutes of September 24, 2003 as presented. Carried.

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

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve a reduction of \$140,054 to the 2004 Cash Budget and the 2004 General Appropriations Budget based on changes in revenue and expenditures for the Crystal Road Enhancement Project. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve the offer from Fisher Transportation, Inc. to extend its 2003 bid for gravel resurfacing to 2004. Carried.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the offer from Pavement Recycling, Inc. to extend its 2003 bid for pulverizing to 2004. Carried.

Reviewed correspondence from Tony Brace regarding a private drive sign installed in the right-of-way on his property on Stevenson Road at East Holland Lake Drive. Mr. Brace has objected to the Road Commission issuing a permit to allow the installation of the sign on his property and has asked that it be removed. Mr. Brace feels that since the sign lists names of property owners that cannot be accessed from his end of East Holland Lake Drive, that it could pose a liability if fire or rescue tries to use the road and cannot get through. Furthermore, Mr. Brace feels the lake association should have asked his permission before installing the sign on his property. The Board agreed with Mr. Brace's request and directed the Manager to send a letter advising the lake association that the permit is being revoked and the sign must be removed from the right-of-way; upon removal of the sign the association's permit fee will be refunded.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for Beaver Control Services with Carl Hartman for the period November 15, 2003 through November 14, 2004. Carried.

Clerk's Report

- Hopefully the first MTF check of the new fiscal year is not an indication of what is to come—the MTF check we received for October (which is based on July's state gas tax receipts, which included July 4th holiday travel) is down \$41,594 compared to the September 2002 MTF check—the 2002 check was down \$10,609 compared to the 2001 check—this is not a good trend.
- The 7 County Council meeting will be held in Lansing on Tuesday, October 21st.

Manager's Report

- The base course on County Road 540 (Cutler Road and Long Road) has been completed—if funds allow, the top course will be applied next summer. There has been some heavy truck traffic on the road since the base course was put down; I think we should consider temporarily posting truck weight limits on this road until the top course is put down otherwise the base course could be damaged.
- As you know winter maintenance is a Road Commission's top priority—with funding so uncertain, what is the Board's feeling regarding the level of service this coming winter? The Board feels we should keep the same level of service as we have had in the past; however, if funding continues to go down, we will have to look at it.

Moved by Brundage, supported by McCracken, to set a temporary 12-ton weight limit on Cutler Road and Long Road (County Road 540) from the West County Line Road to Edgar Road until the top course of pavement is in place. Carried.

Engineer's Report

- I am meeting with residents on the Arbogast Road grade project in Winfield Township tomorrow. Some of the residents are concerned that the road currently is not centered in the right-of-way (it is, however, totally within the right-of-way), and some of them want it moved back on center. I have spoke with our attorney, Michael Cavanaugh, about 'Highway-by-User' and he is checking to see how it applies to a platted road.

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- Tom Mayan and I met with Brian Armstrong, head of the enhancement grant program, in Lansing to discuss the Crystal project. Some of the items, e.g. lights, will have to go back into the program in order to qualify—Scott Civil Engineering is working on the numbers.
- I've spent the last several days touring Federal Aid eligible primary roads in the county along with representatives from MDOT for the Assessment Management Program—this will have to be done and updated on an annual basis.

Commissioners' Comments

- Bob Brundage stated that he would like to hold another brainstorming session before the next board meeting; however, he would like to start two hours before the meeting rather than one hour. The Board agreed and scheduled the meeting time at 1:00 p.m. on November 5, 2003.
- Dale Linton stated that the bid specifications for paving, which will be going out for bid in the near future, need to include a statement that the contractor will be required to pave within certain set dates; and if it isn't done within the allotted timeframe, monetary penalties will apply—no more of this bouncing in and out of the county. Our employees are wasting their time and fuel getting roads ready and then the paving contractor calls to reschedule or they call the day before they want to come in—there is no way the roads can be ready on such short notice. We may be getting a better price per ton, but are we really saving? The Board and management were in agreement that this has to change—the bid specifications will be updated.

Moved by McCracken, supported by Brundage, to approve the 10/15/03 bills totaling \$508,181.80 and Payroll #21 totaling \$77,087.70. Carried. Ayes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk