

OCTOBER 11, 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 October 11, 2005.

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 September 28, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Reviewed a resolution from Cato Township requesting that Cedar Street between Spruce Street and Cherry Street in Honeymoon Heights be placed on certification. Bob Buckowing stated that he made an on-site review of the road earlier today—the pavement looks good, but there is a spillway that still needs to be completed and seeding has not been done.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to postpone a decision on Cato Township's request to certify Cedar Street between Spruce Street and Cherry Street until the project has been completed. Motion carried.

Carl Paepke, County Commissioner, stopped by the meeting to advise the Board that the Solid Waste Committee and the Pierson landfill operators are holding an open house on October 13th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by a meeting with the township board to discuss the use of tipping fees collected by the county from the landfill.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the installation, by Consumers Energy, of streetlights at the following locations: 1) Pierson Road at Bass Lake Road; and 2) Sidney Road at Mt. Hope Road. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, that due to increasing pension and other fringe benefit costs, the Road Commission will no longer participate with employees in the cost to purchase additional service credit from the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan (MERS), except for those employees who have current, unexpired estimates from MERS or who have current requests being calculated by MERS as of today's date. All other employees shall still have the right to purchase additional service credit from MERS; however, the employees will be responsible for the full cost. Motion carried: Roll call: Brundage, Linton. Abstain: McCracken.

Manager's Report

- Lex Dalton has advised me that he is willing to extend the current year's price for brush spraying to 2006 unless fuel prices go above \$3 per gallon during next year's brush spraying season.
- Pavement Recycling was in last week and crushed the low spot on Wyman Road north of M46.
- The driver in Evergreen Township has advised us that he will be retiring at the end of this year; we have posted that position and will go from there.
- Night Patrol has been posted.
- The Snow Roadeo is tomorrow in Wyoming—Kurt Barber, Greg Christensen and Chuck Jegla will be representing the Road Commission. This is the last year that the Snow Roadeo will be held.
- At last week's S.A.M. Conference a manufacturer's representative talked about lease-purchase programs and the new emissions equipment that will be required on trucks starting January 2007. It is estimated that this will drive up the cost approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 per truck. Some municipalities are buying several 2006 trucks under lease-purchase programs in order to avoid purchasing trucks for a few years—does the Board want to have a representative come in to discuss lease-purchase programs? The Board stated it would be willing to hear what their proposals are.
- Eureka Township is putting together a letter to KBH Homes regarding Johnson Road south of Wise Road. Does the Board have any stipulations they want to include? Dale Linton stated that he is concerned about locking in a set amount from KBH Homes for the paving of Johnson Road when we don't know what the price of asphalt may be in a year or two—if oil prices keep going up there's no way of knowing what asphalt will cost. The Board stated it would discuss it with Eureka Township when they come in for their annual meeting with the board to discuss next year's projects.

Superintendent's Report

- An employees' seminar is scheduled at the Road Commission at 8 a.m. on November 3rd to review the new CDL regulations and how it will affect our employees.
- The annual winter maintenance meeting with Sheriff's Department and Central Dispatch is scheduled at noon on November 10th.

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Engineers' Report

Bob Buckowing

- Since it has been crushed, the spot on Wyman Road seems to be holding up pretty good.
- Haven't had a call-back yet from Wally Delamater, Lakeview's village manager, regarding their sewer project along Lakeview Road north of town.
- A new site condo project is going in east of West County Line Road in Section 19 of Montcalm Township, and the developers are asking for a variance from the Plat Standards regarding the length of the road, which is a private road. Tom Mayan advised Bob that the Road Commission's only concern is with the road's entrance located within the Road Commission's right-of-way at West County Line Road—the interior roads are private and not under our jurisdiction. The Road Commission does not have jurisdiction over private roads, existing or new, in site condo projects or land splits. Last spring the County Commission adopted the ordinance regarding the construction of private roads, and it is up to them to grant variances—it's their ordinance. If they want Bob's or the Road Commission's input regarding the roads, they (the County's Building Department) can ask and you can advise them, but it isn't up to the Road Commission to grant the variance. Bob asked what about if the residents or the developer want to make the road public in the future and have the Road Commission certify and maintain it? Tom explained that could be a possibility in the future; however, that would be a decision that would have to be made by the Road Commission's board at that time—at this time the road is private.
- Little Whitefish Woods, Phases 2 and 3, are tied up at the Drain Commission due to drainage issues.

Tom Mayan

- Received final report on the Crystal Road Enhancement Project from LS Engineering. The contractor's bid price was \$833,000 and the final cost came in at \$805,000. The project came out nice and it's a benefit to the community.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, based on the Finance Director's request and recommendation, the current part-time clerical position held by Kelly Randall will be changed to a full-time position effective Monday, November 7, 2005. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 10/11/05 bills totaling \$358,039.96, Payroll #20 totaling \$73,263.43, and Payroll #21 totaling \$74,904.44. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes – McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to increase salaried employees' base wages by three (3%) percent, retroactive to October 1, 2005, as projected in the FY2006 Budget, which was approved on September 28, 2005. Effective immediately, when required to work overtime, the three Area Foremen, the Fleet Superintendent, and the Superintendent will be paid for weekend overtime only; said pay will be based on their straight-time rate instead of at 1.5 times their straight-time rate as paid in the past. If required to work on a legal holiday recognized by the Road Commission, the Area Foremen, the Fleet Superintendent and the Superintendent will be paid double their straight-time rate. The Finance Director-Clerk and the County Highway Engineer will not receive overtime pay for any overtime worked. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to increase the Managing Director's annual wage by three (3%) percent plus an adjustment of \$2,329, retroactive to October 1, 2005, to bring his wage up closer to the average of the Managing Directors' wages in the surrounding counties (excluding Kent County). The Managing Director will not receive overtime pay for any overtime worked. Roll call: Yes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to increase the Chairman's, Vice-Chairman's and Member's annual wages by three (3%) percent rather than the seven (7%) percent increase approved by the Board of County Commissioners in its FY2006 budget. Roll call: Yes: McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk