

OCTOBER 18, 2006

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 18, 2006.

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

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of October 3, 2006 as presented. Motion carried.

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

Mike Petersen of P.O.C. Fleet Services, Inc. came before the Board, at its request, to discuss contract fuel pricing, which can be used as a strategy to control fuel costs. According to Mr. Petersen there is no minimum contract amount; the Road Commission would make the determination as to how much and how long a contract they would want. Mr. Petersen stated he would be able to run a fuel history report to determine our buying patterns; this could be used to help make a decision.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve Cato Township's request to install the following sign on Satterlee Road from North County Line Road south to the gravel pit entrance located north of Cutler Road: "Trucks Prohibited except Satterlee Road Deliveries – Cato Township Ordinance #2006-SAT". Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Chad Harmon, Village President, and Bill Fifield, Maintenance, from the Village of Pierson, came before the Board to request that the Board accept the transfer of jurisdiction for Federal Road within the village limits back to the Road Commission. Dale Linton explained that in the early 1990s the village board asked that the jurisdiction of the road be transferred from the Road Commission to the Village because as a village it would receive more money per mile from the Michigan Transportation Fund than the Road Commission would. The Village then contracted the Road Commission to maintain the portion of Federal Road through the Village; this arrangement continued for several years until the Village refused to reimburse the Road Commission for the contracted costs. At that time the Road Commission discontinued maintenance of Federal Road within the village limits, and the Village has maintained it since that time. Mr. Harmon explained that prior village officials sold the village's maintenance truck and the village's funds are very limited; because of this they have not been able to purchase another truck and are unable to maintain Federal Road or the village streets. Mr. Harmon stated they are still looking for a truck, but with winter coming they need to get something in place. The Board stated it would be willing to resume the jurisdiction of Federal Road through the village, but because the actual transfer of jurisdiction cannot take place until March 2007, the Board would agree to maintain Federal Road until that time, if the Village would agree to sign a maintenance contract and reimburse the Road Commission. Mr. Harmon was in agreement.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to pursue the transfer of jurisdiction of Federal Road within the Village of Pierson's village limits and hereby agree to maintain said road, under signed contract with the Village of Pierson, until the transfer of jurisdiction is official. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Bill Tingley and Denise Ebright of Tingley and Associates came before the Board to discuss a platted road that runs along a lakefront and is described as having a right-of-way that ends at the water's edge—because the water's edge can vary depending on the amount of rain and snow it creates a problem because property owners think they own the land between the road and the water's edge. Mr. Tingley explained that he has a client who requested a property survey and wants Mr. Tingley to include the land located between the traveled portion of the road and the water's edge—his client and other property owners have built docks and storage sheds in this area and feel it is their property. Mr. Tingley asked if the Road Commission could just declare it a 66-foot right-of-way. Tom Mayan explained that the Road Commission cannot amend a plat; it would have to be done through Circuit Court; if the property owners want it changed it will be up to them to pursue it.

A resident of Miles Road north of Entrican came before the Board to discuss the condition of Miles Road between McBride Road and Church Road. Dale Linton explained that we started repaving and working our way south from M-46 a few years ago and got as far as Church Road; however, funding has declined and continues to go down; and fixed costs, especially fuel, have increased dramatically leaving only Federal Aid funds to use for paving on primary roads—those funds have also declined. In fact, we have been unable to find out what this year's Federal Aid funds will be, and we normally have that information by now. Dale explained that we want to complete the road; however, at this time we cannot say when it will be done; in fact, if additional funding for primary roads doesn't come from somewhere soon, we may have to start putting some of the primary roads that are in very poor shape back to gravel in order to maintain them—we cannot afford to keep patching some roads.

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Clerk's Report

Discussed the need to upgrade the Assistant Engineer's computer, printer and the AutoCad software. We've put it off as long as we can, but our current software is no longer compatible with MDOT's reporting system, which must be used for reporting Federal Aid and Critical Bridge projects. With the upcoming bridge project on Blackmer Road north of Condensery Road next year, we need to get this updated as soon as possible. The Board agreed that this should be done.

Superintendent's Report

Due to all of the wet weather, Central Asphalt is running behind on the M66 project north of town. MDOT has given them until this Sunday to complete the paving—rain or shine. Hopefully next week we will have some fairly decent weather, and Central will be able to pave McBride Road and Deaner Road.

Engineers' Report

Bob Buckowing

- Rich Opper has asked if the Road Commission would be willing to certify and maintain Amy School Road south of Kendaville Road, which leads to a development he intends to build. This uncertified, gravel road is in poor condition. Mr. Opper would like the Road Commission to accept it as a gravel road rather than him having to pave it as required by county road standards. The Board stated that it is not in favor of deviating from the road standards; moreover, last spring the County Board of Commissioners adopted a road ordinance that states all new roads, public or private, must be built to the Road Commission's standards.

Tom Mayan

- What is the status on the Blackmer Road bridge? Per Bob Buckowing, Scott Civil Engineering is supposed to have the bridge design delivered to the Road Commission by the end of this month; once we have that information and the engineer's estimate, we can advise the township what their estimated cost will be.
- Discussed the "Jobs Today" program. Per Tom, it requires a three-year plan—looking for 2008 projects that have plans ready to go. Tom will discuss this with Randy.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 10/18/06 bills totaling \$407,304.46 and Payroll #21 totaling \$63,706.90. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk