

The meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners of the County of Calhoun was held Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

Present: Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Chairman
Commissioner Charles E. Monaweck, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Scott Brown, Member
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director
Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director
Kevin Henning, Finance Director
Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director
Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer

Also Present: Tom Frank, Albion Township Supervisor
Frank Manke, Clarendon Township Supervisor
Les Stark, Clarence Township Supervisor
Alice Godde, Pennfield Township Resident
Dave Veramay, Clarence Township Resident
Joe Bramble, Convis Township Resident
Lynn Smith, Convis Township Resident
Clarence Millard, Newton Township Resident
Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township Resident
Carol Swafford, Newton Township Resident
Denny Smock, Fredonia Township Resident
Bill Piepkow, Lee Township Resident
Jim Russell, Sheridan Township Resident
Steve Ball, Calhoun County Road Commission
Hershel Stacy, Calhoun County Road Commission
Robert Volkmer, Calhoun County Road Commission
Paul Adams, Calhoun County Road Commission
Michael Pearson, Calhoun County Road Commission
Howard Trader, Calhoun County Road Commission
Elijah Armstrong, Calhoun County Road Commission
Steve Chamberlain, Calhoun County Road Commission
Stan Sinke, Calhoun County Road Commission
Del Sears, Calhoun County Road Commission
Bruce Kincaid, Calhoun County Road Commission
Bob Slaughter, Calhoun County Road Commission
Stan Meeks, Calhoun County Road Commission

Chairman Chester Travis called the regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Travis stated there being no additions or corrections to the regular meeting minutes of January 3, 2007 they stand approved as printed and distributed.

Commissioner Travis presented the 2006 Attendance Bonuses to the following recipients: Michael Pearson, Howard Trader, Elijah Armstrong, Steve Chamberlain, Stan

Sinke, Del Sears, Bruce Kincaid, Bob Slaughter, and Stan Meeks.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Received a memo from Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, recommending the approval of the 2007 Bituminous Paving Bid.

Received a memo from Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, recommending the approval of the revisions to Travel Policy #29.

Received a memo from Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer, requesting the approval of Resolution 2007-01, accepting Treeline Drive into the county local road system.

Received a memo from Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer, requesting the approval of Resolution 2007-02, accepting South Meadows Drive and a portion of Countryside Lane into the county local road system.

Received a Resolution from Albion Township for hot mix overlay on B Drive South from 25 ½ Mile Road to 24 Mile Road for the 2007 Road Improvement Program.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the January 10, 2007 accounts payable for \$495,747.07. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the January 3, 2007 payroll for \$114,335.62. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to award the 2007 Bituminous Paving Bid to: Lakeland Asphalt Corp., Michigan Paving & Materials Co., and Reith-Riley Construction Co. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the revisions to Travel Policy #29. Commissioner Brown asked what the typical usage for this policy has been. Commissioner Travis stated that if you go out of town on Road Commission business, expenses are reimbursed. Mrs. Johnson noted the mileage reimbursement for the Travel Policy is for employees and Commissioners when attending meetings; however, we do have vehicles that are used for traveling and very seldom do we have to reimburse mileage, unless all vehicles are being used, which is very rare. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve Resolution 2007-01, accepting Treeline Drive into the county local road system. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve Resolution 2007-02, accepting South Meadows Drive and a portion of Countryside Lane into the county local road system. Commissioner Brown asked how can we approve only a portion of a road and why do we do that. Mrs. Kline noted that we only certify a road if a snowplow has enough room to turn around. That portion of the road has a “Y” in it so only that portion can be certified. Mrs. Kline noted that when the rest of the road is complete, the Board will receive a resolution for the other portion of the road. Voice vote: Motion carried.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Randolph provided the Board with the following information:

Maintenance update is as follows:

- Pot Hole Patching
- De-icing
- Trees

Mr. Randolph noted we have been out de-icing the roads. He commented that the de-icing program has worked very well for us.

Mr. Randolph noted his meeting with the Battle Creek Chief of Police on closing M-66 without notifying the Road Commission. He commented that we have been de-icing B Drive North between 6 and 6 ½ Mile Road. This is one of our highest volume county roads.

Mr. Randolph noted that we try to have patience when it comes to snow. We can't put salt on the road when we don't have snow on it. The salt will bounce off and won't do what it's designed to do.

Mr. Randolph stated we received 48 calls on trees that had fallen across the road during the ice storm. He noted that the calls were spread across the County and not in one particular area. Our crews have been busy cleaning this up.

Mr. Randolph noted that the Road Commission would be holding a meeting Thursday evening with all the townships to discuss road improvements.

Mr. Randolph gave a power point presentation on the bridges in Calhoun County and what specifications are used in determining whether a bridge is structurally sound and safe. He noted that we have one bridge in the County that is not structurally adequate and that is the Custer Road Bridge. We have some funds for the bridge, but we are waiting for additional federal funds for this project.

Mr. Randolph noted that a bridge is classified as a bridge when it is at least 20 feet or longer, and anything under 20 feet is considered a culvert. This is a federal requirement.

Mr. Randolph commented that our system is made up of roads, bridges, traffic

control devices, roadsides, and we have drainage. These are the main components of our system.

Mr. Randolph commented that the liability for the Road Commission and every road agency in the State of Michigan is for the maintenance of the travel way only. This is from edge to edge.

Mr. Randolph stated that he looks at four items on a bridge: approach rail types, the connections, approach conditions, and the exposed ends of the rails. He noted that we would need approximately six million dollars to upgrade all the rails on our bridges and it still wouldn't change the structural integrity of the bridge. He commented that the cost to upgrade our bridges is very expensive. The majority of our bridges are quite old, but bridges are expected to last between 90 and 100 years.

Mr. Randolph noted that highway standards change constantly and there are always improvement needed. This makes it impossible to keep current with all of the changes. He stated that we have to minimize the liability and manage the cost, which is always a challenge. He noted that we only upgrade as funds allow. We have an improvement plan for upgrading our bridges and we have to stick to the plan.

Mr. Randolph noted that over the past 15 years, we have replaced 15 bridges, one per year. At the current rate, we will need 87 years to replace all our bridges. This would come out to approximately 59 million dollars in 2007 dollars. The Road Commission is responsible for 35 million dollars and 13 million dollars is local road responsibility, which comes from the townships. If we started this process in 2007, it would take us until 2094 to complete all the bridges.

Mr. Randolph commented that it would cost the Road Commission over 65 million dollars to overlay all of our roads. To upgrade all of our roads to what citizens would like, it would cost over 250 million dollars. Today, we receive only 8 million a year and the majority of that money goes to snow, filling potholes and maintaining what we have.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Monaweck said he wanted to compliment the crews that replaced and repaired the guardrail on B Drive North between 9 and 8 ½ Mile Road, they did a nice job.

Commissioner Monaweck inquired about using crushed concrete when filling in the sides of the roads by mailboxes. Commissioner Monaweck noted that it would be much nicer and cleaner for the citizens when they walk to their mailboxes. Mr. Randolph said that we would be able to do that.

Commissioner Brown commented to Mr. Randolph that he thought he gave a nice presentation regarding the bridges.

SUPERVISOR'S & PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S TIME

Mr. Frank asked what Mr. Randolph meant by a parapet. Mr. Randolph noted that a parapet is a concrete wall that is attached to the approach rail of the bridge.

Mr. Frank inquired about the paving bid and if the Road Commission would use all three bidders. Mr. Randolph commented that the reason there are three contractors awarded the bid was so that we have the availability around the County and it would be more efficient. Mr. Randolph noted that we would start with Lakeland because they are the lowest bidder, but if they are busy and can't do the work then we have other contractors to go to.

Mr. Stark stated that he has always had very good cooperation with the Road Commission.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mrs. Swafford said thank you for taking care of the complaint she made regarding the tree north of the intersection of 8 Mile Road and B Drive South. She commented that the Township was very pleased at how fast the tree was taken down after she had brought it to our attention. She noted that the other two trees next to the one that was taken down need to be removed as well, as they are also almost dead.

Mrs. Godde stated that she lives near the McAllister Bridge and would like to know what is going to be done. She was informed that the bridge was not of legal height. Mr. Randolph commented that the bridge is of legal height and meets the requirements of the Highway Department. Mr. Randolph measured it himself. He stated that we are looking at submitting a grant to fix up the area around the southeast corner of the bridge, but match money is needed for this grant opportunity. He stated that he has talked to the township about this.

Mr. Bramble stated that they have been working on their road list. He asked why the Road Commission does not have cold mix on the list this year. Mr. Randolph said that we are not going to use it this year.

Mr. Berezonsky inquired why we have not patched B Drive North behind the fairground to the city limits. Mr. Randolph said that it would be looked into.

Mr. Piepkow congratulated Commissioner Brown on his appointment to the Road Commission. Mr. Piepkow noted that he was here to speak for the Calhoun County Farm Bureau. He stated that agriculture is the largest industry in the county. We run all our equipment and produce on these local county roads. It is essential that we have good roads and well-maintained roads to operate our businesses. We can be one of your biggest supporters or we can be one of your biggest critics. We have noticed a lot of brush cutting and good things going on this fall and that is what he came here to say. Mr. Randolph commented that Farm Bureau could talk to the townships and convince them that they need

to contribute to the local road program because we can't do work without match money. Mrs. Johnson stated that we would like nothing better than to be able to work together with the townships so that we could make our local roads better.

Mr. Veramay stated that he would like it on record to remind Farm Bureau that the farmers do not contribute one dime toward these roads with the gas and weight taxes, because you don't pay that as a farmer.

Mr. Russell asked Mr. Piepkow if other Farm Bureaus go to their Road Commissions and tell them what is wrong with their roads. Mr. Piepkow said that each Farm Bureau is different and he doesn't know what the other ones do. Mr. Piepkow thanked the Road Commission for cutting the brush on Baseline Road.

The next meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners of the County of Calhoun will be Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Travis adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Chester E. Travis, Chairman

Pixie Ann Coats, Deputy Clerk