

The meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held Wednesday, October 3, 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 A. Brown, Member
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director
Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director
Kevin Henning, Finance Director
Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director

Also Present: Steve Ball, Calhoun County Road Commission
Hershel Stacy, Calhoun County Road Commission
Robert Volkmer, Calhoun County Road Commission
Paul Adams, Calhoun County Road Commission
Paul Beardslee, General Council
General Public

Chairman Chester Travis called the regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2007. Voice vote. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

- Received Traffic Control Order #07-150-002, for Marengo Township, to place and maintain traffic control device on Centennial between Michigan Avenue and Partello Road.
- Received Traffic Control Order #07-040-003, for Bedford Township, to establish a four way stop at the intersections of Cross Street, Hussey and Center.
- Received Traffic Control Order #07-040-004, for Bedford Township, to establish a three way Stop at the intersection of Cross Street and Susan Drive.
- Received a letter from Mr. Dean Latta requesting the Calhoun County Road Commission to certify I Drive South in Leroy Township for snow removal.
- Received a letter from Paul Beardslee, General Council, regarding the transfer of the Parks System and Board of Public Works back to the County.

Mr. Beardslee gave a brief summary regarding the request to return the Board of Parks Trustees and the Board of Public Works back to the County.

Mr. Beardslee stated that the ownership of the Board of Parks Trustees belongs to the Board of Road Commissioners. The operation of the Parks is under a different statute. The County Board of Commissioners can appoint a ten (10) member Board to act as the Parks Commission to handle the operation of the Parks.

The funding will always be an issue, no matter who is running the Parks but the ownership of the Parks will continue to be that of the Road Commission.

Commissioner Brown asked if it is the County Board of Commissioners who decides how the parks system is put into place. Mr. Beardslee said that the statute states that the Road Commission is the Parks Trustees by law, but the operation of the parks is under a different statute.

Commissioner Brown stated that since the Road Commissioners are the Board of Parks Trustees, and are appointed by the County Commissioners, and being a subordinate body, what authority does this Board of Road Commissioners have to undo what the County Commissioners already have in place.

Mr. Beardslee stated that he is not suggesting that the Road Commissioners have that authority or that they can say we are no longer in this business. All the Road Commissioners can do is ask the County Commissioners if they will give the operation of the parks to someone else. He stated that he agreed with Commissioner Brown, that it is not up to the Road Commission to assert their will over the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Beardslee if the Road Commissioners have the authority to send the Board of Parks Trustees back to the County. Mr. Beardslee stated that they did not have the authority to send it back.

Commissioner Travis asked if it was illegal to use Road Commission funds to operate the parks. Mr. Beardslee stated that it depends on the amount of funds being used.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Beardslee if the Board could get a legal opinion of the current activities the Road Commission performs in the parks and whether or not we can continue doing them. Mr. Beardslee said that he will be happy to do that but would like some kind of a listing on what we are doing in the parks and how the money is being spent. Commissioner Travis said that he could get that list from Mr. Randolph or Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. Beardslee discussed the Board of Public Works. He stated that the County Commissioners have two options in designating the Board of Public Works. They can designate it to the Board of Road Commissioners or to the Drain Commissioner. He commented that if this Board decided that they no longer want to operate the Board of Public Works, they would need to follow the same procedure as they would for the Board of Parks Trustees. The Board of Road Commissioners will need to go to the Board of Commissioners and request to be relieved of that burden.

Mr. Beardslee said that a question was raised regarding the salary of the three Boards. He stated that it is up to the County Commissioners to decide on the salary for the Road Commission, Parks Trustees, and Board of Public Works. They determine how much of the salary is paid for being on each Board. The salary for each Board is kept separate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Calhoun County Parks Trustees and Board of Public Works

Mrs. Johnson asked if the Board could vote on denying the motion or even take another route. Commissioner Brown said that he is not in favor of voting on it because it's not even a legal motion.

Commissioner Brown asked Commissioner Monaweck what he wanted to do since he made the motion. Commissioner Monaweck said that he would make the motion to withdraw it.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to withdraw the motion of reverting the Parks System and Public Works back to the County Board of Commissioners. Voice vote: Motion carried.

- Community Compost Center Agreement with the City of Marshall

Mrs. Johnson stated that they have not yet received the Community Compost Center Agreement from the City of Marshall, but it should be forthcoming.

- No other unfinished business came before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown, to approve the September 26, 2007 accounts payable for \$238,417.04. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the September 12, 2007 payroll for \$114,756.20. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve Traffic Control Order 07-150-002. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve Traffic Control Order 07-040-003. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve Traffic Control Order 07-040-004. Voice vote: Motion carried.

MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Randolph, Managing Director, provided the Board with an update on maintenance, construction, and project information. He commented on various engineering projects. Mr. Randolph stated that we have had 75 miles of road in the program this year.

Mr. Randolph announced that the Road Tour is scheduled for October 25, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. and he is looking forward to it.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Monaweck said thank you to the chip and seal crew for the work that was done on 1 Mile Road. What a great improvement. He wants to thank the crew for the work that was done on 2 Mile Road and O Drive. This is another big improvement. He went for a ride on B Drive with Tom Frank and thought they did a nice job. There are a few places that need to be fixed but overall, it looks great.

Commissioner Monaweck stated that he toured the gravel pits last week and thinks we should look at selling them. He has received numerous calls from Mr. Larry Holcomb wanting to purchase the ten acres at the Garfield Pit. He feels we should get some of this money back. Commissioner Monaweck stated that the pit on Division Drive is prime property for building sites and could be worth a lot of money. Mr. Randolph said that he has been putting off doing anything with this property, but we may be able to sell a few of the sites. Commissioner Monaweck stated that the compost center is an awful site. We need to clean it up, sell the steel, and make the concrete usable.

Mr. Randolph said he would get with Mr. Henning and ask him to call those brokers to see if we can get something together for the Board to look at.

Commissioner Monaweck stated that he received a report on our inventory of equipment. He has six (6) pages of equipment that shows no use of this equipment at all. This leads him to believe that we have a lot of equipment that we don't use or need. He feels this needs to be revisited. If we don't use it, then sell it and get the money out of it.

Commissioner Monaweck discussed a piece of equipment owned by his neighbor. We may want the neighbor to give us a demonstration on the equipment to see if this would be something we could use.

Commissioner Monaweck suggested that we start some type of dialogue with the County Administration to see if we can do something about the parks.

Commissioner Moore stated that we might want to look at the Ott Preserve. It has cost us money and is not used as much as the other parks are used. We may want to find someone to help support it. The Nature Conservancy is something we might want to look into. They would be able to better care for it because it is right up their alley. Commissioner Moore spoke to the Director at the Nature Conservancy about some of the things they want to do in this area. He stated that they want to become more active and this may be a way of getting this off the County books and will allow the Road Commission to concentrate more on the other two parks. This may be an opportunity for a win/win situation for all of us.

SUPERVISOR & PUBLIC OFFICIAL TIME

Mr. Frank said that he would like to get Mr. Stacy to run the single seals next week.

The residents think that B Drive South looks very nice.

Mr. Hamaker stated that some of the County Commissioners need to shut their mouth and not complain, especially since they don't give us any money.

Mr. Farmer stated that he was glad to hear that the County was going to ask for input from the Road Commission on the two new Commissioners.

Mrs. Johnson commented that at the meeting she had with the County Administrator, he asked that the Road Commission Board members provide him with a profile on each of their backgrounds. Commissioner Brown commented to Mrs. Johnson that she could remind Mr. Purcell that he already has a copy of his profile because it was attached with his original application.

CITIZEN TIME

Mr. Millard stated that he felt they should get rid of the County Commissioners and get a new slate in there. They should put aside their political beliefs and start working for the people, which is what they should be doing in the first place.

Mr. Veramay stated that it is nice to see someone here from the County to see what is going on.

Mr. Bramble said thank you for filling the potholes. He stated that he mentioned it at the last meeting and the next day they were fixed and he appreciates it.

Mr. Berezonsky said thank you to Commissioner Monaweck for looking at the mess at the pit. Mr. Berezonsky asked Mrs. Johnson if she ever received a budget on the compost center. Mr. Randolph said no, they haven't received it yet.

Mr. Monaweck said that the big deer sign on R Drive South at the county line, is missing.

The next meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Travis adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Chester E. Travis, Chairman

Pixie Ann Coats, Deputy Clerk