

The meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held Wednesday, October 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
Dennis Randolph, Managing Director
Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director
Kevin Henning, Finance Director
Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director
Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer
Steve Ball, Operations Manager

Also Present: Hershel Stacy, Calhoun County Road Commission
Robert Volkmer, Calhoun County Road Commission
General Public

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

Commissioner Travis announced that the Assistant Managing Director, Joanna Johnson turned in her resignation last week and will be leaving in about 5 weeks. He commented that he was happy for her.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 3, 2007. Voice vote. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

- Received a memo from Tiffany Eichorst, Solid Waste Director, regarding the extension of the current Compost Center Agreement.
- Received Resolution #2007-09-14 from Leroy Township, requesting a street name change in the Graham Lake Terrace Subdivision from Division Street to Park Street and for CCRC to install a stop sign at the northern corner of Graham Lake Terrace and Park Street.
- Received a memo from Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer, recommending the abandonment and discontinuance of a section of Harding Avenue located in Ackley Acres, between lots 78 and 79, in Pennfield Charter Township.
- Received a memo from the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions (ASMRC) with enclosed ballots to the Board to vote on the Board of Directors of the ASMRC and a ballot for the Board of Directors of the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM).
- Received Traffic Control Order # 07-160-005, for Marshall Township to place and maintain a traffic control device on Verona Road between 11 Mile Road and 15 Mile Road.

- Received Traffic Control Order # 07-100-006, for Emmett Township to place and maintain a traffic control device on Verona Road between 11 Mile Road and 15 Mile Road.
- Received a memo from Joanna Johnson, Assistant Managing Director, regarding the Winter Maintenance Streets Bid for 2007-2008.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the extension of the current Compost Center Agreement to November 17, 2007. Voice vote: Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the October 10, 2007 accounts payable for \$374,471.66. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the October 10, 2007 payroll for \$111,833.55. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the abandonment and discontinuance of a section of Harding Avenue located in Ackley Acres, between lots 78 and 79, in Pennfield Charter Township. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the ballot to elect Robert Forker-Berrien County, and Robert Powers-Cass County, to the ASMRC Board as Commissioners. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the ballot to elect Joseph Pulver-Ingham County and Joanna Johnson-Calhoun County, to the ASMRC Board as Staff members. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Commissioner Monaweck asked if Mrs. Johnson was going to be able to support Calhoun County as an elected staff member. Mr. Randolph replied that she is going to be the Managing Director of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and being that it is in the same area and region, this will not be a conflict as far as this election is concerned. He stated that he feels that Mrs. Johnson will still support our views and the things that we need in southwest Michigan. Commissioner Monaweck asked Mrs. Johnson if she would do that and she replied that she would.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the ballot to elect Orrin Gregg-Lenawee County as Director on the CRAM Board of Directors. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve Traffic Control Order # 07-160-005, for Marshall Township, to place and maintain a traffic control device on Verona Road between 11 Mile Road and 15 Mile Road. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve Traffic Control Order # 07-100-006, for Emmett Township, to place and maintain a traffic control device on Verona Road between 11 Mile Road and 15 Mile Road. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the Winter Maintenance Bid.

Mr. Mike Hackworth, Operations Manager of AIM Construction, commented on the bid process. He stated that they have twenty-three (23) pieces of motorized snow removal equipment and seven (7) CDL licensed professional drivers. They have a total of 20 employees and run a twenty-four (24) hour a day and seven (7) days a week shift. They have the manpower and equipment to handle this type of job.

Mr. Ball said that we had a mandatory pre-bid meeting where everything was explained and all questions were answered.

Chad & Dad Property Management came in with a total of \$7,738.00 per event and the AIM Construction bid is about double this amount.

Mr. Hackworth asked Mr. Randolph what the historical snowplow events have been. He was told that historically, on the average, there have been about 20 to 26 salting events and 10 – 14 snow plowing events.

Commissioner Monaweck stated his concerns with awarding the bid to the lowest bidder just because he is the lowest. Sometimes you get what you pay for. He hopes that Chad and Dad Properties Management can do a good job for us.

Mr. Chad Bishoff from Chad and Dad Property Management said they understood the bid the same as Mr. Hackworth and he and his father worked hard on completing the bid according. He commented that they have done their homework on this bid.

Mr. Randolph stated that Mr. Henning has looked at some reference numbers and Mr. Randolph feels that contracting this work out is going to be good for the Road Commission. He said that he made sure this doesn't impact our employees.

Mr. Henning stated that he was told that if we didn't bid this out, we would have to hire five (5) new employees. Based on five (5) new drivers, it would cost us \$3,646.80 per event. Mr. Randolph said that when we hire employees, we pay them year around and with contracting, we only pay them per event.

Moved by Commissioner Travis and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve the Winter Maintenance Streets bid for 2007-2008, to Chad & Dad Property Management. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Mr. Henning gave a brief presentation on the local road program. Mr. Henning said that the numbers that were given to the Townships were for budgetary purposes only and would share with us 50/50 of the actual cost of the work to prep the road, as well as to resurface the road. Some of the roads had a substantial amount of prep work that was needed, plus the application rates did change during the year. That put us about 10% over budget. This means we are about \$63,000 over budget for the local road program, which also means we would need to ask the townships to share in the cost of the \$31,500. Mr. Henning stated that management had a lot of discussion on what to do with the amount that is over budget, thought we would come to the Board, and ask for guidance. He stated that management would like to recommend to the Board that we honor the original estimates given to the township, and the Road Commission would come up with the extra \$31,500. Mr. Henning stated that we have learned a lot from this and will change our way of doing estimates next year for the local road program.

Mr. Henning added that all of our paving jobs have been under budget this year and have done a great job on them.

Moved by Commissioner Travis and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve to honor the original estimates to the townships and allow the Road Commission to adjust their internal budget to pay for the budget overage in the local road program for the townships. Voice vote: Motion carried.

MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Randolph, Managing Director, provided the Board with an update on maintenance, equipment, construction, and project information. He commented on various engineering projects.

Mr. Randolph stated that the jail alternative program is coming along, but would like to have more participants. He feels this is a good program and has really helped us out.

Mr. Randolph discussed the tentative state budget. He commented that the overtime has been well managed this year. He discussed the road ratings and the quality improvements over the last 10 years.

Mr. Randolph mentioned that the trailer at the compost center was stolen. The Sheriff's Department caught the people that took it, but it has a lot of damage.

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 noted an article in the Detroit News that talked about other Counties making their townships pay for the brining on gravel roads. Mrs. Johnson commented that the list-serve we receive from CRAM showed that the majority of the Road Commissions have their townships pay for all of the costs or 50% of the costs.

Commissioner Monaweck asked if we have had any communication from the County regarding Parks and BPW going back to the County. Mrs. Johnson stated that on Wednesday, October 3rd, she sent information to the County Administrator on our Road Commission Board, as well as Paul Beardslee's letter. At that time he noted that he would be getting back with her. There seems to be a gap from what she understands on what can and cannot be done with Parks and BPW. The understanding she received from Commissioner Moore and the County Administrator is that indeed, we can't turn over the Parks and BPW. This is something we need to follow up on again.

Commissioner Monaweck asked if we have started any program on the revaluation on our equipment. Mr. Randolph said that he has not had a chance to work on that but will do so next week.

Commissioner Monaweck said thank you to the crew that worked on the culvert on K Drive South. It is a very big improvement.

Commissioner Monaweck stated that he received an email from Commissioner Solis asking for some information regarding Kimball Pines. He decided that because of the transparency the Board of Commissioners, it seemed best to him to answer it in this type of forum. He read the following email: "Could you please tell me where the \$10,000 to cover the cost of constructing the ten (10) acre parking lot at Kimball Pines came from and why Trustees did not sign the contract and do you agree with the terms of the contract?" He stated that he can answer the last two questions and wants this made public. With the response that he receives, he will forward it on to Commissioner Solis. He asked Mr. Randolph to respond. Mr. Randolph stated that in regards to the parking lot, Silver Leaf has indicated that they are going to pay us back over time and we have allowed for this. He commented that we are receiving money from Silver Leaf to cover any other costs. The real question from the County is; what benefits are we getting from this. We are receiving 2.5 % of the gate proceeds and they are continuing to go up. We get 25,000 to 30,000 visitors to the parks in Calhoun County each summer. So we have two of the biggest attractions in Emmett Township. The pavilions, the Disc Golfers, and Silver Leaf have made a big improvement to the park. Silver Leaf is doing a lot of clean up at no cost to the County and has made permanent improvements. The basic agreement was negotiated and Nelson Karre helped us with that. The contract was brought to the Board and the Board approved the Managing Director to sign the contract. That is a common way agreements are signed by the Road Commission. Even the State Highway Department has many Road Commissions who authorize the Chief Executive to sign the contracts. There is no law that says we can't do anything like that. Mr. Randolph said that the nice thing about Kimball Pines is that it is very low maintenance for us, beside some vandalism that we can't predict. Silver Leaf is there to take care of things. We remove the trash and cut a small amount of grass and the

majority of the grass is on the certified road. Commissioner Monaweck stated that what we have done is subsidized the cost of the 10 acres over a period of time from Act 51 money. This is no different than the city subsidizes industry by tax incentives to keep them in the area and to keep employment here. Mr. Randolph stated that it is more of a funding issue because we are able to get the money back. Commissioner Monaweck said that Mr. Randolph answered the question as to why the Board Trustees didn't sign the contract. The other question Mr. Solis asked is, do you agree with the terms in the contract? Commissioner Monaweck stated that yes, he does agree. It is no different than giving a tax break to Kellogg, so yes, he agrees with everything in the contract. Commissioner Monaweck stated that he would like this on the record and a copy of the minutes, so that he can give a response to Commissioner Solis.

SUPERVISOR & PUBLIC OFFICIAL TIME

Mr. Frank commented on all the paved shoulders around the county.

Mr. Farmer stated that he received calls on the vandalism because of all the debris that was left all over the Lee Township.

CITIZEN TIME

Mr. Veramay stated that he is sorry to see Mrs. Johnson leave but Mr. Randolph should be proud of the fact that he took someone in with no experience and she is now going to be the Managing Director of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

Mr. Veramay stated that he has done a lot of research and checked with an attorney on whether or not this Board is sub-serving to the Board of Commissioners. The only control that the County Board has over the Road Commissioners is to appoint the Road Commissioners. The only way they can remove the Road Commissioners is for just cause, and that does not mean they can remove them just because they don't agree with the decisions they make. He would like to see this Board get a second opinion on this issue. He feels that this Road Commission is doing a terrific job.

Mr. Berezonsky asked if he could have a copy of the percentage of the wages and benefits for the staff at the Road Commission. Mr. Randolph stated that he could have a copy.

The next meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Travis adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Chester E. Travis, Chairman

Pixie Ann Coats, Deputy Clerk