

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Thursday, December 6, 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  
Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director  
Kevin Henning, Finance Director  
Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer  
Steve Ball, Operations Manager  
Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

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 9:46 a.m.

**Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve the November 21, 2007 regular meeting minutes of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners. Voice vote: motion carried.**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Pixie Coats, Human Resource Director, read the communications as follows:

- a) Received a memo from the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) designating December 2007 as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month".
- b) Received a Career Development Reimbursement Request from Kevin Henning.
- c) Received a memo from Kevin Henning regarding the Bid for various sizes of Cutting Edges.
- c) No other communications or resolutions were received.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman Travis noted the following Unfinished Business:

- a) Review of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commission Policies. Mrs. Coats noted that the policies are still under review.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the November 21, 2007 accounts payable for \$145,784.97. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the November 30, 2007 accounts payable for \$1,925.50. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve the November 21, 2007 payroll for \$112,115.38. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Brown to approve Resolution 2007-16 designating December 2007 as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month". Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve the Career Development Reimbursement Request for Kevin Henning. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**Bid for various sizes of Cutting Edges:** Mr. Henning noted that at the November 21, 2007 Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners meeting, the Board awarded the Cutting Edges bid to Truck & Trailer. At that time, the Board felt that the price variance was minimal and that Truck & Trailer was a local provider for cutting edges. Mr. Henning contacted Truck & Trailer in regards to the bid award and they stated that the price quoted by them in the bid process was only valid through November 9, 2007. The updated price of \$8.93 per foot for our standard blade is an increase of 3.6%. Also, further review revealed that the blades provided by Truck & Trailer also come from Canada, which was a factor originally considered by the Board in doing business locally. Mr. Henning stated that Truck & Trailer is located in Dutton, Michigan and St. Regis Culvert, Inc. is located in Charlotte, Michigan. Both companies employ locally, within the State, and all blades come from Canada. Our contact at St. Regis is Andy Good who is a resident of Marshall, Michigan. Mr. Henning is asking that the Board re-award the bid for various sizes of cutting edges to St. Regis Culvert, Inc.

**Moved by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to re-award the Bid for various sizes of Cutting Edges to St. Regis Culvert, Inc. Chairman Travis clarified with Mr. Henning that the updated cost from Truck & Trailer went up \$.31 per foot, which is an increase of 3.6% from their original bid. Voice vote: motion carried.**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Randolph provided the following report:

- We have had a couple of call outs for snow and our crews have done well. The local road contractor was not called out the first time last week, but they were called out the other day. He noted that he has been monitoring calls and we have not received many. Steve has been checking the roads and noted we are working out a few bugs, but overall, the contractor did well.
- Crews have been patching potholes in between winter maintenance operations. We are in the freeze/thaw transition.
- Doing some tree work.
- The infrared machine has been out on a few projects, but the wind impacts the use of this machine.
- The traffic signals at 11 Mile Road/Verona and 15 Mile Road/Verona have been installed and the solar powered flashers are up on the warning signs.
- Received notification that we have been awarded two Category F grants, which are open competition grants statewide. One project was submitted jointly with the City of Albion for Clark Street (\$375,000). CCRC and the City of Albion will each match 10%. The other project is the H Drive North connector for a service road along I-94 between 11 Mile Road and Michigan Avenue (\$339,000). This is contingent upon the Federal Highway Administration approval to remove the Michigan Avenue off ramp from I-94. CCRC and the Huron Potawatomi Tribe will each match 10%.
- Received notification of two grant projects for FY2009 for federal High Risk Rural Roads and Local Safety projects.
- Currently looking at federal aid job design. Will bring consultant numbers to the Board at their next meeting.
- Getting ready to close out 2007. Our new year actually starts on December 17, 2007.
- Kicking off the payroll kiosk soon.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Monaweck noted his concern with snowplowing on M-66 that he brought to Steve's attention. Steve and Hershel took care of his concern and CCRC has since provided excellent coverage on M-66.

Chairman Travis referenced the awards on display. Mr. Randolph stated that yesterday was the annual American Public Works Association (APWA) and American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recognition ceremony. He noted that 17 projects were recognized this year. This covers Southwest Michigan from Ingham to Berrien County. We received 3 awards: 1) Charlotte Highway Bridge – historic preservation; 2) Eastland subdivision paving – honorable mention; and 3) Rain gardens on Pennfield Road at the new high school – honorable mention.

### **SUPERVISOR'S & PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S TIME**

Mr. Gene Hamaker, Marshall Township Supervisor, stated that he is happy about the H Drive North connector and congratulated Mr. Randolph for securing the funding for this project.

Mr. Art Farmer, Lee Township Supervisor, asked for clarification on Mr. Randolph's presentation at the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioner's Special Meeting that was held on November 28, 2007. He has spoken with our government officials in Lansing regarding the big issue facing Michigan and the mass exodus of people from the State. He asked if the formula for State and federal funding distribution is based on population. Mr. Randolph responded yes, the formula is tied to population and this is a real concern because funding could decrease as population decreases. Discussion continued.

Mr. Farmer noted that he contacted the Drain Commissioner regarding large amounts of tires that are being dumped in the ditches. He will provide Steve with the locations for follow-up. Chairman Travis added that we were told that the County could not pass a blight ordinance, but individual townships could.

Mr. Tom Frank, Albion Township Supervisor, asked about the 2008 Fee Schedule. Mr. Henning replied that the 2008 Budget and Fee Schedule would be going before the Board at their December 19, 2007 meeting. Upon approval, we will be working on the packet to the townships for the 2008 Local Road Program that will include road ratings, fee schedule, etc. CCRC staff will work with the townships on this information so that townships can meet the March deadline for submittal of local roadwork resolutions. Mr. Frank asked the current location of the boom mower. Steve Ball replied that the boom mower, with a mower, is currently on the west side of the county.

### **CITIZEN'S TIME**

Citizens commented on the following:

- CCRC is doing a good job patching potholes.
- The boom mower has done a good job in Newton Township – it is nice to be able to see the ditches.
- A resident inquired about his request for a speed study on D Drive South, off of 11 Mile Road. Mrs. Angie Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer, responded that she is in the process of evaluating the study results that will be provided to the Michigan State Police. She noted that there was a problem with one of the traffic counters, where someone drove over it repeatedly, 500+ times. Mrs. Kline stated that there have been no crashes and there does not appear to be a speeding problem, based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, with the current speed limit of 55 mph. She emphasized that this is not an opinion, but State law. Discussion continued. Upon completion of the evaluation, Mrs. Kline will send the resident the results of the study.
- It was clarified that the Michigan Avenue off ramp from I-94 that was referenced by Mr. Randolph earlier in the meeting is the westbound ramp to westbound Michigan Avenue at Exit #103. This would eliminate the dangerous merge there. Discussion continued.
- Buckhorn Creek is plugged up between the railroad crossing and the river and water is at the road (B Drive North, east of Marshall).
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- Thanked Mr. Randolph for his work with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and securing grant funds for economic development and safety projects.

Chairman Chet Travis announced that he is in receipt of Mr. Dennis Randolph's letter of resignation as Managing Director of the Calhoun County Road Commission. Officially, his last day of employment with the Road Commission is January 20, 2008, but his last day in the office is Friday, January 4, 2008. Chairman Travis expressed his regret that Mr. Randolph was leaving and wished him the best in his future ventures.

The next meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Travis adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

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Chester E. Travis, Chairman

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Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk