

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

Present: Commissioner Scott A. Brown, Chairman
Commissioner Hugh T. Coward, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Charles E. Monaweck, Member
Commissioner Eric J. Tobin, Member
Kevin Henning, Interim Managing Director/Finance Director
Pixie Coats, Board Clerk and Human Resource Director
Steve Ball, Operations Manager
Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

Excused: Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Member

Also Present: Erin Cummings, Calhoun County Road Commission
General Public

Chairman Scott Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Tobin to approve the February 20, 2008 regular meeting minutes of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners. Voice vote: motion carried.

SUPERVISORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS COMMENTS (regarding agenda items only)

- A Marengo Township resident inquired about the Career Development reimbursement request from Kevin Henning, Interim Managing Director. Chairman Brown responded that the request is for \$1,430 for Business Course 640 – The Financial Environment.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Coats read the communications as follows:

- a) Received a Career Development reimbursement request from Kevin Henning, Interim Managing Director
- b) Received Policy Statement #97 – Proper Installation of Mailboxes along County Roads
- c) Received communication from Chairman Brown regarding the Managing Director search process

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the February 25, 2008 accounts payable for \$552.50. Roll call vote: Monaweck–Yes; Tobin–Yes; Coward–Yes; Brown–Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve the February 25, 2008 accounts payable for \$315,262.07. Roll call vote: Tobin–Yes; Monaweck–Yes; Coward–Yes; Brown–Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Tobin to approve the February 27, 2008 payroll for \$122,099.95. Roll call vote: Monaweck–Yes; Coward–Yes; Brown–Yes; Tobin–Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the Career Development reimbursement request from Kevin Henning, Interim Managing Director. Roll call vote: Coward-Yes; Monaweck-Yes; Brown-Yes; Tobin-Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Tobin to approve Policy Statement #97-Proper Installation of Mailboxes along County Roads. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the Managing Director search process. Voice vote: Motion carried.

INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Henning provided the following report:

- PowerPoint Presentation (copy provided to Board members): Mr. Henning reviewed Winter Maintenance hours spent in February of 2006, 2007, and 2008. We have a lot of potholes this year because we have spent 83% of our time in a plow truck versus 26% in February of 2006.
- Mr. Henning commented that more hours that are required for winter maintenance decreases our ability to provide other services such as pothole patching and tree removal. We currently have trees on our list that have been signed up to be removed over three years ago.
- Crews will be working on patching every day that the roads are clear from ice and snow, using a variety of patching materials.
- Patching our roads is vital, as was snow removal. After the snow stops flying, we will have to see what is left and try to "patch together" a 2008 construction season with the funding we have left.
- As he meets with townships, he is extending the deadline for local road program resolutions to May 2008. Mr. Henning noted that we can't commit match dollars for township local roads until winter is over and we have reassessed funding for construction.

Commissioner Monaweck inquired if we put load limits on this year. Mr. Henning replied that we did not. He has been in contact with Jackson County, who has a frost tube, and they had not put on frost laws at this time.

Commissioner Tobin asked how the complaint system was working. Mr. Henning replied that we have had a lot of calls on potholes and explained that requests for service are logged into our computer system and sent to Supervisors to assist them in dispatching our crews. We use the same priority list to tackle potholes that we use for winter maintenance, based on traffic volume and speed.

Commissioner Coward asked how winter maintenance costs from this year (including November and December of 2007) and pothole patching would impact CCRC's match funding available for the local road program. Mr. Henning replied that we will be looking at the year-to-date budget, cash flow and re-evaluating budget items that are at 100% CCRC cost. Other activities such as sweeping, brining, tree cutting, etc., may have to be scaled back this year. While we do not want to prioritize construction on local roads over primary roads, we can do more local roads since CCRC only pays for up to 50% of local road construction, as mandated by State law.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Coward commented that potholes are everywhere in Michigan, not just in Calhoun County.

Commissioner Brown added that potholes are immediately caused by freeze/thaw cycles, of which there have been several throughout this winter season. All roads constructed have a life expectancy and there is no Michigan legislation to address reconstruction of our local roads at the end of their life. He stated

that Drive MI has a campaign to secure more revenues for our roads. For more information and to join forces with other organizations and businesses, please contact DriveMI.org.

SUPERVISOR, PUBLIC OFFICIAL AND CITIZEN TIME

- Gene Hamaker, Marshall Township Supervisor, asked about federal aid project plans for Verona Road between 11 Mile Road and I-94. Kevin responded that this project is not on the list for 2008, but possibly in 2009. Mr. Hamaker inquired about the traffic signal on Old 27 at the fire station. Mr. Henning replied that he has spoken with Max Phares from the City of Battle Creek, who we contract with for traffic signals, and the design has been completed. Mr. Henning will contact Mr. Hamaker when he receives the plans. Mr. Henning added that he is working on Marshall Township's roadwork list and would get the revised quote to Mr. Hamaker.
- A Convis Township resident inquired about plans to finish N Drive North between 16 and 20 ½ Mile Road that was started last year. Mr. Henning clarified that this federal aid project is finished, as it was a safety project under the High Risk Rural Roads grant to remove fixed objects in the right-of-way, shoulder work, pavement marking and signage. It did not include resurfacing.

The resident also asked why the cancellation for the Managing Director Search Process meeting scheduled for 1 pm today was not posted in the newspaper. Mr. Henning responded that we did post it on our website. Chairman Brown apologized. Chairman Brown reviewed the Managing Director Search Process and noted that we would not be interviewing Executive Search Firms. Copies of the process were available to the public.

- A Marengo Township resident asked for a breakdown of CCRC wages and benefits as a percentage of our total budget. Kevin noted that this would include our State contracts.
- Sharon Drumhiller, Tekonsha Township Supervisor, commented that she met with Mr. Henning and Mr. Ball recently and was told that every township in Branch County and the County had a road millage. Mr. Ball clarified that he was not aware of township and County road millages in Branch County, only that match money has been provided for local roads that border Calhoun County. Ms. Drumhiller stated that she contacted Branch County regarding this and was told that each township receives a portion of the budget. If there is money left over at the end of the year in that particular township, they have the option to provide matching funds for a project that they would like to do. They do not have road millages. Chairman Brown asked if this is a "disburse first and pay as you go" process. Ms. Drumhiller responded that she believed that is the process. Mr. Ball stated that Albion Township is the only township he is aware of that has a road millage. Chairman Brown added that Pennfield Township has an assessment set up through their cable television service for local road improvements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Scott A. Brown, Chairman

Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk