

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, July 2, 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
Commissioner Chester E. Travis, Member
Kevin S. Henning, Managing Director
Pixie Coats, Board Clerk
Angela Kline, Assistant County Highway Engineer
Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

Also Present: 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 Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the June 18, 2008 regular meeting minutes of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners. Voice vote: Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, asked the amount of the Career Development Request. Chairman Brown responded that the amount is for \$1,450. Also, Mr. Berezonsky referenced Mr. Henning’s contract and asked if six months severance pay is normal policy. Chairman Brown replied that there is no policy on severance pay. Mr. Berezonsky stated that this is outrageous, given the economy. Also, Mr. Berezonsky believes that the contract should require that Mr. Henning reside in Calhoun County. Out-of-state travel should not be covered. Mr. Berezonsky asked Mr. Henning directly if he had been drug tested within the past five years. Chairman Brown reminded him that this is public comment only, all comments should be addressed to the Board, and the Board is not required to answer questions. Mr. Berezonsky asked the Board if Mr. Henning had been drug tested, investigated for a crime, or charged with a crime within the last five years.
- Walt Obrinske, Clarence Township resident, asked about the Clarence Township traffic survey. Mrs. Kline responded that Clarence Township has requested a traffic count and speed study for Anderson Road and this has been added to the schedule.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Coats read the communications as follows:

- a) Received a letter from Lester Stark, Clarence Township Supervisor, requesting to have Anderson Road, Clarence Township, traffic survey recorded.
- b) Received a Career Development Request from Mr. Kevin Henning, Managing Director
- c) Received a “Notice of Intent to Establish a Condominium Project” located at 2810 Capital Avenue, SW in the City of Battle Creek from the developer JUSTA #4, Inc.
- d) Received the Employment Agreement for Kevin Henning, Managing Director
- e) Received the official notice from Teamster Local 214 President, Joe Valenti, stating that the employer’s proposed agreement has been ratified
- f) Received a copy of the proposed Teamster Local 214 Labor Agreement
- g) Received a memo and bid tabulations from Kevin Henning, Managing Director, regarding the bid for the 2008 Autopatcher

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Monaweck to approve the June 19, 2008 accounts payable for \$246,607.18. Roll call vote: Coward-Yes; Travis-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Monaweck-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the June 18, 2008 payroll for \$105,667.30. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Coward-Yes; Travis-Yes; Monaweck-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Commissioner Monaweck and supported by Commissioner Travis to approve the Employment Agreement with Kevin Henning, Managing Director. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Travis-Yes; Coward-Yes; Monaweck-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Henning provided the following report:

- ***I-94 Service Road:*** Progress is continuing and we have received environmental clearance from the Federal Highway Department. The final design has been completed and we are now moving forward to the bidding process. We are planning to bid the project in July, award the bid in August, and construct the road in September. The bid will include a stop order to cease work and notify the DNR if crews come across the Michigan Rattle Snake, since it is an endangered species. Discussions have taken place on whether or not a retention pond is required between the roadway construction and the 30 year flood plan wetland area. MDOT is providing clarification. Mr. Henning noted that at this time, Exit #103 on I-94 will be closed when construction begins and eventually will be completely removed.
- ***2008 Local Road Program:*** Sealcoating has started. We began in Marshall Township, moving into Convis Township and then counterclockwise around the county. We are using an emulsion with a polymer additive this year, as well as natural stone instead of blast furnace slag. Mr. Henning noted that currently, this material appears to minimize bleeding and tracking that has occurred in the past when road temperatures are over 110 degrees causing the emulsion to liquefy and rise to the top. This can cause damage to the road as the emulsion will then stick to tires and could begin to grab aggregate back out of the roadway. Currently, our sealcoating appears to be running 10% over our original budget. This is largely in part to the polymer additive.
- ***Autopatcher Bid:*** The bids were provided as a communication in the Board packets. Mr. Henning again emphasized the need to properly maintain our roads, as opposed to providing temporary solutions with cold patch. He is asking the Board to thoroughly review the provided information and consider purchasing two autopatchers. Mr. Henning briefly reviewed financing options. Discussion took place on delivery time, maintenance costs, depreciation/lease rates, etc. Chairman Brown asked that information from other road commissions that use autopatchers be provided. Mr. Henning has this information and will provide it to the Board.

SUPERVISORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS TIME

- Mr. Walt Obrinske, Clarence Township resident, inquired about the timeline for chip and seal on 26 Mile Road and possibly Monroe Road in Clarence Township. Mr. Henning replied that 26 Mile Road is scheduled for chip and seal and will probably be completed in mid-August. He is unaware of any plans for Monroe Road. Mr. Obrinske asked about plans for 24 Mile Road that currently is posted with "Road under Construction – Travel at Your Own Risk" signs. Mr. Henning responded that the signs were placed to warn motorists of the risk of traveling this area because of the deterioration of the road and impending road construction. At present, we are using rotomill to fill the holes until we can find a more permanent solution. Mr. Henning noted that a 3-5 year plan is needed for this road and because it is a local road, we will need to work with the bordering townships on a solution. Mr. Obrinske provided a petition from residents on 24 Mile Road asking that the road not be turned back to gravel. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Joe Bramble, Convis Township resident, commented that he is glad that local and primary roads are being mowed. He also noted that areas of 17 ½ Mile Road, that was recently sealed, are bleeding through. Mr.

Bramble stated that we should have continuously paver patched Bellevue Road, rather than just the bad areas. Mr. Henning replied that by skip patching, we were able to patch four miles of bad areas of the road versus one continuous mile. Mr. Bramble asked why the trucks hauling out of the gravel pits in Marshall Township are not bonding.

- Mr. Maurice Shaffer, Newton Township resident, asked how the roadwork list is determined and asked for a copy of the list. Mr. Henning noted that primary roads are leftover from last year’s list and others are the worst of the worst roads. Mr. Shaffer asked if bids were taken for the chassis for the autopatcher. Mr. Henning replied that bids were taken and the Board has that information for review. Mr. Shaffer asked how the cost share is determined, as in the cost to reconstruct 24 Mile Road. Mr. Henning replied that the Road Commission can only pay up to 50% for any capital improvement on a local road. Mr. Shaffer noted that part, but not all, of D Drive South in Newton Township has been patched.
- Mr. Steve Swafford, Homer Township resident, noted that he inquired three months ago about the chip and seal that was done on 30 Mile Road, south of M-60, last year that failed and asked if anything would be done this year. Also, he noted that the Night Crew is still using cold patch.
- Mr. Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, stated that the craters are bad on 23 Mile Road near M Drive North and the oil trucks continue to tear it up. Also, he asked the percentage of funds that go toward wages and benefits.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Tobin requested that he be contacted in the event that a rattle snake is discovered on the I-94 Service Road project. Mrs. Kline clarified that we are required to notify MDOT’s environmental person.
- Commissioner Monaweck referenced a CRAM survey that noted that last year, seven road commissions in Michigan shut down operations during the summer months and seven road commissions turned roads back to gravel. He emphasized that it all comes down to lack of funding for our roads and noted that road commissions do not have the ability to tax county residents.
- Commissioner Travis commented that Hillsdale County also turned roads back to gravel last year and intend to turn more back to gravel this year.
- Commissioner Coward asked about moving to a 4-day, 10-hour schedule. Mr. Henning replied that we are currently on a 4-day, 10-hour day schedule for the summer months and will be looking at extending this schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Commissioner Travis and supported by Commissioner Coward to recess for a closed session to approve the minutes of the previous closed session. Roll call vote: Commissioner Monaweck – Yes; Commissioner Tobin – Yes; Commissioner Travis-Yes; Commissioner Coward-Yes; Commissioner Brown – Yes. Motion carried.

The meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was reconvened at 6:23 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Secretarial Clerk

Scott A. Brown, Chairman