

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in regular session at their offices in Harbor Springs on August 21, 2009. The Chairman, Frank Zulski, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Frank Zulski, Leroy Sumner, and Larry Williams

Staff Present: Brian Gutowski – Engineer-Manager, Brent Shank – Operations Engineer, Judy Fouch – Clerk

Guests: Bill Wiechmann – Pleasantview Township; Bob Sandford – West Traverse Township; Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Township; Alyce Conrad – Springvale Township; Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Township; Gordon Kruskie – Readmond Township; Edith Kruskie – Island View Road; Michael Clayton – Hoyt Road; Jack Crotty – Graham Road; Lucas Porath – Northwest Design Group

MINUTES: It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 6, 2009.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: The List of Accounts Payable for August 21, 2009, Voucher No. 0933, checks numbering from No. 30488 to No. 30541, in the amount of \$515,189.91 was presented for approval. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL: Voucher No. 0934 for Payroll No. 17 for August 21, 2009, checks numbering from No. 40058 to No. 40113, in the amount of \$70,460.81 was presented for approval. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. A conceptual drawing was provided by MDOT on their solution for improvements at the U.S. 31 and Pickerel Lake Road intersection. One recommendation is to eliminate the straight arrow since there is no straight traffic movement to prevent confusion at the intersection, and to move the left turn lane further north.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Northwest Design Group has submitted a Construction Engineering Amendment Request for \$78,439.00 for the Cemetery Road section of the Lears Road and Cemetery Road BIA Project.

NEW BUSINESS, (Northwest Design Group Amendment Request) Continued:

The original construction engineering agreement for Lears Road was \$51,278.00. Lucas Porath of Northwest Design Group explained that it includes the City of Petoskey's portion and \$10,000.00 for Benchmark Engineering. He stated that the City of Petoskey was included since the project is funded 100% by the BIA. He noted that the additional cost was in inspection time once the bids and project duration were known. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve the Amended Construction Engineering Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the document.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT: Alyce Conrad commented about the amount of road construction underway, wishing that it could be better coordinated to make it easier to get around.

Bob Sandford mentioned that the township plans to improve Hoyt Road, from Quick Road to Heynig Road, next year. Mr. Gutowski indicated that a meeting was arranged by Harbor, Inc. on August 19th with the Road Commission and the City of Harbor Springs regarding a problem area on Hoyt Road.

Michael Clayton commented about the plans for improvements on Hoyt Road, and the curves in the last quarter mile of the road. He stated that he would like to come up with an arrangement for the Road Commission to realign the right-of-way and smooth out the curves, so he is working with the neighbors on right-of-way issues in an attempt to avoid compensation. He noted that he has a conservation easement on part of his property, and he offered to work with the Conservancy to neutralize compensation with them as well. It was his feeling there could be a net zero exchange of acreage if the right-of-way is shifted. Mr. Clayton mentioned that Benchmark Engineering performed some work for him in 2005, and he would like a disclaimer that any markup on Benchmark Engineering does not affect him. Mr. Gutowski stated that it is a BIA project and the improvements would have to be done to federal standards.

Jack Crotty of Graham Road stated that a yield sign was placed at the intersection of Graham Road and Cincinnati Point Trail. He felt that it appeared to be backwards to the way most traffic flows since Graham Road is a continuous road and Cincinnati Point Trail is a merging road. He also commented about a drainage issue on Graham Road where some ditch work is needed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Notice of Town Hall Meeting for Representative Gary McDowell on Friday, August 21st at 12:00 p.m. at the Pellston Village Hall, and on Monday, August 21st at 5:00 p.m. at the Petoskey City Hall.
- b. Notice of Office Hours for Senator Jason Allen on Thursday, August 27th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Petoskey Public Library.

Mr. Gutowski stated that CRAM would like everyone to talk to the legislators about road funding since a 5% reduction in MTF is expected next year (for the sixth consecutive year), bringing revenues down below 2002 levels. Mr. Zulski felt that it is imperative to talk to them about funding reductions because if it remains the same as this year, there will be no equipment purchases and no work performed on primary roads.

Discussion followed on rising costs such as health insurance and material prices. Mr. Zulski noted that material reductions will be necessary since it is the only place left to adjust since the Road Commission is already understaffed. Mr. Zulski stated that Representative McDowell and Senator Allen support funding but feel that it is not up to them to introduce a bill on it. He felt that it is time for the legislators to take some action and to realize the necessity of these services.

ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT: An e-mail was received from Ron Wohlford, Chairman of the Negotiating Committee for MDOT, where it was noted that a tentative maintenance agreement with the state should be received within the next week. He indicated that it is a three year contract, and an improvement over the last agreement even though an agreement was not reached on all items. MDOT is working on the plans for the ¾ mile M-108 project and would like to transfer a section of the highway to the Village of Mackinaw. The Village would like to accept the road, but it was determined that the Village limits end at the water park, so the state will have to transfer a portion to the Road Commission. The drivearound was held with MDOT to discuss low cost repairs to local and primary road intersections, as part of the Local Safety Initiative for future grant money. It was noted that there are a lot of areas that need additional signing, and the Road Commission can be compensated for the work if the contract is under \$100,000. Bill Dohm asked that a copy of the report be provided to the township supervisors.

Lyn Johnson has indicated that the County still plans to proceed with road work at the Headlands with the use of Road Commission personnel, but no details have been provided yet. A budget update will be compiled for the next meeting, and it was felt that a meeting should be held with the employees again to discuss budget cutbacks. The Act 51 Report will be presented to the County Board at their meeting on September 15th at 2:00 p.m.

OPERATIONS ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Shank stated that the construction crew is working on Cemetery Road which they hope will be ready for paving next week. Work will then resume on Lake Grove Road and Catob Road so that they can be completed.

CLERK'S REPORT: Bills continue to be submitted to the townships on construction projects, and it was noted that the township payments have been very timely.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS: Commissioner Sumner stated that a County ORV Ordinance was passed on August 13th, and will take effect 60 days from that date. Dennis Keiser referred to the initial ORV signing that will be funded by the County Board, stating that 50% of the ORV fines will go to the Sheriff's Department and 50% will go to the Road Commission.

Commissioner Williams asked about the status of permit violations by Tulkestka & Sons. Mr. Gutowski stated that he talked to the state about the violations, and they are seriously considering restricting their ability to work in the state until the matter is resolved, since they have been uncooperative about obtaining permits in Emmet County and other locations.

Commissioner Zulski requested an update of the working budget in advance of the next board meeting. He also commented about the name sign correction for St. Nicholas Road.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:43 a.m.