

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 September 4, 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, Jack Jeffries – Equipment Superintendent, Judy Fouch – Clerk

Guests: Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Township; Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Township; Bob Sandford – West Traverse Township; Bill Wiechmann – Pleasantview Township; Art Shaw – Springvale Township; Gordon Kruskie – Readmond Township; Edith Kruskie – Islandview Road; Robert Barcheski – Hedrick Road; Steve Zucker – Petoskey News-Review

MINUTES: It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 2009.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

Bob Sandford clarified that the township plans to improve Hoyt Road, from Quick Road to the Harbor Springs City limits next year, and not from Quick Road to Heynig Road as stated in the minutes. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Zulski to amend the minutes of August 21, 2009 on Page 2, under Public Comment, first sentence of the second paragraph to read "...Hoyt Road, from Quick Road to the Harbor Springs City limits ...".

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: The List of Accounts Payable, Voucher No. 0935, checks numbering from No. 30542 to No. 30578, in the amount of \$136,946.90, 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. 0936 for Payroll No. 18, checks numbering from No. 40114 to No. 40166, in the amount of \$70,904.03 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. The County ORV road map was reviewed. Kathy Abbott recommended that the roads requested to be exempt to ORV travel by the Road Commission due to safety reasons be reflected in the minutes, which are as follows: Lower Shore Drive (from M-119 to M-119), Lake Street (from M-119 to the City of Harbor Springs), State Road (from Quick Road south), Beach Road (from M-119 to the City of Harbor Springs), Pickerel Lake Road (from M-119 to Kolinski Road), Kolinski Road (from Pickerel Lake Road to Country Club Road), Country Club Road (from Kolinski Road to Division Road), Bayview in its entirety, Mitchell Road (from Alcan Road to the City of Petoskey), Division Road (from U.S. 31 to Atkins Road), Atkins Road (from Division Road to the City of Petoskey), Howard Road (from the City of Petoskey to Intertown Road), Intertown Road (from Howard Road to Cemetery Road), Sheridan Road (from Cemetery Road to Eppler Road), and Lake Grove Road (the Natural Beauty Road section). It was noted that roads can be added at any time. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to accept the above mentioned roads reflected on the County ORV road map as exempt to ORV travel due to safety reasons.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Barcheski of Hedrick Road referred to total devastation on the property behind him due to a logging operation, where there has been a semi-trailor and logs lined up on the road. He wanted to voice his concerns to see if there was anything that could be done. Mr. Shank stated that a violation notice was posted yesterday for the noncompliant driveway, which he will followup on, but that the logging operation is being performed on private property. Bill Wiechmann, Pleasantview Township Supervisor, mentioned that the ownership of the property is in question due to foreclosure and back taxes, but that he will look into it further.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Gutowski provided an updated 2009 Working Budget due to the anticipation of increased costs and reduced MTF revenues. He reviewed those areas where savings were incurred and budget line items were ahead of schedule, including the MDOT budget and notice of money due as a result of an audit adjustment. With revenues better than budgeted, and the cost saving measures that were implemented, he stated that the budget is currently \$234,000 ahead of budgeted amounts. However, with expected decreases in revenues and increased costs, it was noted that another \$80,000.00 in cuts will be necessary to make ends meet in 2010. In discussing the rising cost of materials and anticipated increases in 2010, the Board asked Mr. Jeffries to contact the vendor who supplied blades this year to check on additional purchases before next year. A meeting will also be held with the employees to inform them to cut back on the use of materials.
- b. Discussion ensued on purchasing an outdoor wood burner at the Levering facility to save on heating costs. Mr. Jeffries found a wood burner at a cost of \$13,000.00 that we would install, that he determined would pay for itself within 2 heating seasons. He factored in the worst case scenario and that included the purchase of wood, with a projected savings on LP gas of approximately \$7,100.00 per year. He stated that the heat exchangers in the truck storage are forced air, versus the radiant heat that currently exists that is most efficient for thawing out most equipment. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams to pursue the purchase of a wood burner.

NEW BUSINESS, (Vote on Motion) Continued:

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

Mr. Gutowski mentioned that he is looking into the option of geothermal heating for the Conway facility, and will be receiving quotes on it soon.

- c. The 2008 Act 51 Financial Report will be presented to the County Board on September 15th at 2:00 p.m. The presentation will include such topics as road ratings, the increased value in the infrastructure, record-setting township contributions, reduced MTF revenues, the decline in the primary road fund and primary road system, and fringe and overhead rates which are comparatively low.
- d. The contract with Maple River Township for an asphalt cap placement on Valley Road was tabled pending bid review at the next meeting.
- e. A cost agreement for the electricity for a school flasher on U.S. 31 in Pellston was provided by MDOT, who has asked the Road Commission to assume payments that will be reimbursed with overhead. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve the cost agreement with MDOT for the flasher on U.S. 31 in Pellston.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT: An e-mail was received from Dennis Keiser indicating that Bear Creek Township will cost share on overruns on the Mitchell Road stimulus project since the bids came in over. The township has agreed to pay half of the cost, up to \$12,500.00. Little Traverse Township will discuss a possible cost share on West Conway Road overruns as well. A notice was received from MDOT stating that the construction of the M-119 bike path will start on September 14th. A fax was received from CRAM regarding a bill introduced by Senator Allen allowing the County the right to transfer Drain Commissioner duties to the Road Commission in populations under 35,000. An update was provided on the noncompliant driveways and unpaid fines by E.F. Tulgestka. The Attorney General has indicated that the state bond held by the DNR cannot be cashed in and turned over to the Road Commission. It was noted that the matter could be pursued in Small Claims Court with charges for damages. Mr. Gutowski indicated that he would talk to Kathy Abbott to see if the county can provide some assistance. Bill Dohm suggested that the attorney file a temporary injunction against the company, which Mr. Gutowski will look into. The Northern Association of Road Commissions Meeting will be held on September 9-11 at Boyne Mountain. The seasonal schedule of 4-10 hour days will end next week.

OPERATIONS ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Shank provided an update on paving Cemetery Road, where the top course will be done mid to late October once Lears Road is done. Construction will resume on Lake Grove Road next week.

Gordon Kruskie stated that he received the crack sealing bill, but indicated that crack sealing has not been done yet on Islandview Road, which staff will look into.

CLERK'S REPORT: A liability insurance refund was received from MCRCSIP for a net amount of \$10,550.00.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Zuluski adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Clerk of the Board – Judy Fouch

Date