

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 October 16, 2009. The Chairman, Frank Zulski, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Frank Zulski and Leroy Sumner

Commissioners Excused: Larry Williams

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

Guests: Bill Wiechmann – Pleasantview Township; Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Township; Bob Sandford – West Traverse Township; Art Shaw, Alyce Conrad – Springvale Township; Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Township

MINUTES: It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Zulski to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 2, 2009.

Ayes: Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Excused: Williams

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: The List of Accounts Payable, Voucher No. 0941, checks numbering from No. 30678 to No. 30741, in the amount of \$222,533.03 was presented for approval. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Zulski to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Excused: Williams

Motion carried

PAYROLL: Voucher No. 0942 for Payroll No. 21, checks numbering from No. 40271 to No. 40321, in the amount of \$65,477.95 was presented for approval. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Zulski to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Excused: Williams

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. An update was provided on the outdoor wood burner at Levering. The Building Inspector would not approve the Hawkin model since it did not have the UL listing. It was then found that the Hawkin model would have to be sent back to be upgraded in order to be UL listed, so the Central unit was approved and purchased due to the UL listing. The wood burner will be ready for use within the next week or two.
- b. Mr. Gutowski has been working on an Energy Efficiency Grant application offered by the State of Michigan for upgrades to the Conway facility. The County is eligible for \$158,000.00 for two grants, however it was just determined that the application has to go through the County and Lyn Johnson has indicated that they are applying for the entire grant for improvements at the Transfer Station. Mr. Gutowski stated that the Conway facility is not very energy efficient and he reviewed the upgrades that are needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, (Energy Efficiency Upgrades) Continued:

The cost of all improvements would be approximately \$350,000.00, with a ten-year pay back. Since the Road Commission cannot apply for the grant due to application by the County of Emmet, other financing options will be discussed at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Notice of the 37th Road Commissions Association Meeting on November 3, 2009 at Audie's Restaurant in Mackinaw City.
- b. Notice of the MDOT Local/State Transportation Workshop on October 22, 2009 at the Road Commission Offices.
- c. Notice of the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions Annual Conference on December 7-9, 2009 at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth.

ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT: The Local Roads Committee will meet on October 21st at City Hall regarding updates from the Corridino Group and MDOT, there will an Emergency Exercise on October 22nd at Central Dispatch, an MDOT Meeting will be held with local officials on October 22nd at the Road Commission Offices, an Asset Management Presentation will be provided by Mr. Gutowski on October 22nd at the Muskegon County Road Commission, and an MDOT Meeting on the new maintenance contract will be held on October 26th in Gaylord. Applications for temporary drivers are due October 26th, and snow removal bids are due on October 27th.

Attorney David Bedells has been called back to active duty for 18 months in February, so Mr. Gutowski felt that it was time to retain a different attorney and he recommended Steve Tresidder. Mr. Tresidder has represented the Road Commission in the past and is very knowledgeable on highway law. Mr. Zulski suggested that Attorney Tresidder be contacted regarding the interest in his services effective November 1st, but felt that no action should be taken until a full Board is present. He asked staff to express appreciation to Mr. Bedells for his years of service.

OPERATIONS ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Shank reviewed the driveway permit revisions that were discussed at the last meeting. The revisions were tabled pending the presence of a full Board.

Mr. Gutowski mentioned that Otsego County Road Commission is also experiencing enforcement issues with driveway permits, and indicated that their attorney is looking at the issue statewide. An opinion on driveway permit enforcement will be provided by CRAM and forwarded to other road commissions. Mr. Zulski suggested that a meeting be held with the County Board to discuss the possibility of county enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Keiser inquired about the enforcement of driveway permits, and Mr. Gutowski explained that state law provides for a permit system but has no provision for enforcement. He stated that fines have been imposed and future permits have been withheld. Mr. Zulski reiterated that it should be pursued on a county level, and a meeting set up to make sure that county enforcement is a viable option.

Bill Dohm commented that he was glad to see that a variance was not pursued on the wood burner, since the County has rules that the public must abide by. He then asked about the source of wood for the burner, and was informed that it would be purchased locally this year. Mr. Dohm asked about the status of Catob Road, W. Conway Road, and the design of Hoyt Road. Mr. Shank responded that work will proceed on Catob Road next week, trenching will begin on W. Conway Road on Monday and the road will likely be paved the following week with completion by November 1, and he indicated that he is working on the design of Hoyt Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT, Continued: Dennis Keiser inquired about the status of paving Mitchell Road, and was informed that it would be done on October 17th. He also asked for an update on Lears Road and Mr. Shank stated that base course paving will be done on October 22nd and everything is on schedule. Alyce Conrad asked if W. Conway Road is closed, and was informed that only one lane is closed during construction. Bob Sandford asked if State Road would be done this year, and Mr. Gutowski stated that the BIA has not completed the paperwork yet. Bill Dohm questioned whether the funding would carry over until next year, and it was noted that the stimulus agreement must be signed by February or it can be redistributed to other Tribes. Ben Banfield of the Odawa Indian Tribe has indicated that some tribes are trying to work directly with the Federal Highway Department and bypass the BIA due to delays, but that the local Tribe is not large enough to do that. Art Shaw extended appreciation to Mr. Shank for meeting with the homeowners on Graham Road which he indicated was helpful.

CLERK'S REPORT: None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS: Mr. Zulski asked for an update on temporary drivers and flu concerns among truck drivers. Mr. Shank stated that the temporary driver applications will be held if needed for backup.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Clerk of the Board – Judy Fouch

Date