

June 18, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Cass County Road Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Krempec at 9:00 A.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was said in unison.

Board Members Present: Commissioner Powers, Commissioner Bowser, Commissioner Celie, Chairman Krempec, and Commissioner Poehlman (10:15 a.m.)

CCRC Staff Present: Louie Csokasy, Rick Janssen, Joe Bellina and Grace Chester.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Public Present: Barbara Dempsey (Ontwa Twp.), Roseann Marchetti (Ontwa Twp. & County Parks Commission), Jackie Goodman, Pete Fournier (Porter Twp.), County Commissioner Carl Higley and County Commissioner Gordon Bickel.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Powers moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Bowser seconded and the motion was carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Fournier thanked the road commission for getting Harvey St. reopened and suggested placing signage alerting the public to the water conditions. Manager Csokasy said that the road commission would have preferred to wait longer for the water to recede naturally but when a significant amount of the roadway became visible, it was decided to do the same thing that was successfully done to Huckleberry Lane to allow traffic on the road.

County Commissioner Bickel also complimented the road commission on the work on Harvey St. but asked why the Newberg Fire Department had not been notified when the road was originally closed. Csokasy said that the notification process is being improved. Commissioner Bickel also asked that the pavement edge on the south end of Hilltop Drive be inspected and repaired.

There was an update and discussion on water and drainage issues on Robbins Lake Road and Williamsville Street.

Mrs. Goodman asked about what the mowing schedule was and noted that intersections needed attention especially at School Street and Garrett Road. Road Superintendent Janssen said that with many of the limited workers involved in the paving operation, he can only schedule mowing when staff is available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Powers moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of 6-04-09. Commissioner Celie seconded and the motion was carried.

SPECIAL MEETINGS & MILEAGE

Krempec	6-15-09	Co. Parks Commission Mtg.	4 hrs	32 miles
	6-17-09	Conference Call-CCRC	4 hrs	32 miles

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bowser reported that the cash flow situation continues to improve with revenue up and expenses down, but the financial outlook remains guarded. Manager Csokasy continues to work with the accounting staff on financial reports reflecting the Act 51 status and the profit and loss position. Commissioner Celie said that he continues in learning the CCRC's accounting system and ACT 51 rules and regulations.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Rick Janssen reported on the last safety meeting saying that MCRC SIP representatives Mike Schultz and Ed Kaleefey afterward did a safety walk through with Committee Chairman Lance Stevenson. Janssen said that there will be a report with the results from the MCRC SIP tour and that progress is being made on the revised personal protection list. A list of training videos has been compiled based on job type and progress is being made to fill the vacancy on the safety committee.

CO PARKS COMMISSION

Chairman Krempec said that the last meeting centered on FY 2010 budget and the proposed change to make Parks' Director Wyman a full time county employee from a road commission employee that is leased by the county.

A new disc golf course design was presented and a meeting with the MEANDRS group was reviewed. Krempec said that some residents think that the completion of the MEANDR of the Dowagiac Creek has caused homes in the area to flood which had never happened before the flow of the creek was changed. Krempec said that due to the unprecedented amount of water this year, he doesn't think that it is unusual for water to be where it hadn't been before and was not necessarily the fault of the MEANDRS Project. Water Resource Commissioner Campbell was also in attendance at the MEANDRS meeting.

The Parks' Finance Committee approved a capital improvement recommendation of \$20,000 for a fence to enclose the dog run at Lawless Park and \$10,000 to purchase various assets currently being rented to the county parks by the CCRC. Manager Csokasy asked the Board if proceeds from the asset sale should be restricted in the same manner as the recent property sale and the Board said to treat it no differently.

In a report by Director Wyman volunteer hours have increased and public interest in the county parks has shown a marked increase. Krempec noted that the Mountain Bike event was well received and future plans are to make cross country ski rentals available to the public.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Manager Csokasy said the biggest event in recent weeks was the necessity to close public access to the Redfield Street Bridge due to increased structural problems. Chief Engineer Bellina updated the Board on the current status and future options for repair/replacement of the bridge. Consideration is being given for possible short term fixes that would allow the bridge to be opened for limited use and the exploring the option to reapply for emergency critical bridge funds which were denied by the state previously.

County Commissioner Higley said that he had received many calls from affected businesses in the area. Chairman Krempec said that the road commission will try to do the very best that it can in order to support public safety and to achieve that goal make take some time.

Meetings

Csokasy reported on meetings that he attended in Mason and Ontwa Townships to discuss the creation of three year township road plans. Csokasy also did a presentation for seventy people at a meeting of the Diamond Lake Association. Manager Csokasy and Chief Engineer Bellina attended a meeting with the Pokagon Band and among items discussed was the repair/replacement of the Sink Rd. Bridge by the Tribe.

Road Work

Csokasy reported that the road contracts in Volinia and Newberg Townships have been completed and the paving crew will be in Silvercreek Township next week and then on to Wayne Township.

The Manager reported that the four ten-hour days are receiving a good response from the workers. Review of the Salaried Benefit Policy is almost completed and after meeting with the salaried staff, the Manager's recommendation will be presented to the Board for their review and consideration.

Finance

CCRC finances continue to improve, benefitting from payments for township road work. Csokasy reported that the bill from the contractor for the first application of dust control has been received and the difference between what the townships were charged and what the road commission paid the contractor was approximately 5% overhead for road commission time and expenses such as mapping, staking and grading the gravel road.

Asphalt Plant

The plant is running and per Rick Janssen the temperatures are the best in the last twenty years. Asphalt overlays on Donnell Lake, Beebe and White Streets have been completed.

Equipment

Work continues of assembling and reviewing the buy back quotes for two eligible graders and the findings and recommendation will be made to the Board.

ENGINEER'S UPDATE

Gravel Road Composition Study

Bellina distributed reports to the Board on his study of the condition and material composition of selected gravel roads in Cass County. Per Bellina, samples of road material for study were taken mainly from Marcellus Township.

Materials from the roadway, berms and shoulders were tested and compared to MDOT gravel surface specifications. Results should a large percentage of sand with amounts of stone below standards.

The rate of deterioration is accelerated by the amount of wind, water and regular use by heavy trucks and farm equipment but Bellina reported that dust control application is a benefit to the condition of the gravel road. Several possible options to lengthen the life of road were discussed but Bellina said that even with the best effort, gravel roads have a limited life span and routine maintenance will never be completely eliminated.

Csokasy has reviewed gravel road grading scheduling of other road commissions. CCRC tries to cycle through all gravels week to week and one half with the four current graders and operators. Other counties try to do a rotation of two to three times a year. CCRC grades more often because of the basic poor condition.

Pit Property

Bellina said that two gravel companies have expressed interest in the Fox Street Pit property as either an outright purchase or a leasing agreement and Bellina plans to set up a meeting with the interested parties.

Engineering Intern

Bellina said that Josh Marschke has been working with the Engineering Department on various projects including a new system to upload sign inventory and information into the road program system and if successful would allow access to location and age of all signs in Cass County.

Traffic Counts

Have been completed in Silvercreek and now working on Calvin with several specialty locations, bridge and truck counts included. Csokasy said that the traffic counters has increased co-operation between the road commission and the Sheriff's Department and the resulting shared information benefits both agencies.

Project reclassification

State modifications to the definition of "adjacent roads within a two-mile area" have been made and Per Bellina some CCRC projects may have to be moved from 2009 to 2010.

NEW BUSINESS**2009 ENGINEERING REIMBURSEMENT**

Commissioner Powers moved to approve and authorize the Board to sign the MDOT application for \$10,000. reimbursement for engineering services. Commissioner Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried.

TOWNSHIP CONTRACTS

Chairman Krempec noted the township road contracts that had been returned for Board review and he will sign.

		Jefferson		
09-01	Township Gravel Rds All gravel		Billed by Invoice	
		Marcellus		
09-01	Township Gravel Rds All gravel		Billed by Invoice	
		Newberg		
09-01	Township Gravel Rds By township list		Billed by Invoice	
		Ontwa		
09-01	May St. (Sherman/Elkhart) bit agg base/gravel shoulders/pm	.35 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	18,561.88 12,387.92 30,969.80
09-02	May St. (Elkhart/Lakeview) bit agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	.83 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	37,423.02 24,948.68 62,371.70

09-03	Lane Rd. (US 12/Seaside Ct.) Bit Agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	.20 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	9,017.40 6,011.60 15,029.00
09-04	Eagle Lk Rd. (Parkshore/N Park Dr.) Bit Agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	.20 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	9,017.40 6,011.60 15,029.00
09-05	Township Gravel Rds By township list	Penn	Billed by Invoice	
09-05	Wayne St. (Union/Trout) Bit Agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	Porter .75 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	33,816.06 22,544.04 56,360.10
09-07	Township Gravel Rds By township list		Billed by Invoice	
09-04	Township Gravel Rds By township list	Silvercreek	Billed by Invoice	
09-04	O'Keefe St. (Marcellus Hwy./Gage) Bit Agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	Wayne .50 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	22,543.50 15,029.00 37,572.50
09-07	Twin Lks (Amtrak/Dewey Lk) Bit Agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	1.02 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	45,988.74 30,659.16 76,647.90
09-08	Gage St. (Atwood/Joint) Bit Agg recap/gravel shoulders/pm	.75 MI	TWP. CCRC TOTAL	33,816.06 22,544.04 56,360.10
09-09	09-04 Township Gravel Rds By township list		Billed by Invoice	

PERMITS

2009-15-15-9262 Twin Lakes Improvement Assoc. Annual Parade

Commissioner Powers moved to waive the permit fee for the Twin Lakes Improvement Association.
Commissioner Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried.

The following approved permits were reviewed.

Driveway

09-03-30-9253 Pine Lk St Jefferson Roger Shields
09-04-08-9259 Mathews St LaGrange SMC/Brigham Exc

09-15-15-9260 71st St Wayne David Hoffman
09-09-02-9261 Eagle Lk Rd. Ontwa Ron Dunkel
09-13-05-9263 Garret Rd. Silver Creek Volk/Advanced Design
09-09-02-9251 Roy Drive Ontwa TH Morrison Group LLC

General

09-05-33-9266 Waterstradt-Rd Cut (gravel) Marcellus Keith Dodge/S&C Exc.

OTHER/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

An invitation to the Board members from County Commissioner David Taylor was read.

Discussion on lack of adequate road funding in Michigan and Commissioner Poehlman asked if the Board should consider sending another resolution to the County Board asking them to support by resolution an increase in road millage to be sent to state legislators.

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:30, Commissioner Powers moved to go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and to take Bellina and Csokasy. Commissioner Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried.

Returned to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:45 A.M., Commissioner Powers moved for adjournment. Commissioner Bowser seconded and the motion was carried.

CLERK Grace Chester

CHAIRMAN Leroy R. Krempec

Approved by Board action 7-09-09