

September 3, 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 Celie, Commissioner Poehlman, Commissioner Bowser, and Chairman Krempec.

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

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**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

Public Present: Barbara Dempsey (Ontwa Twp.), Norma Lerner (Press), Roseann Marchetti (Parks' Board), Bruce Campbell (Water Resources), Mark McClung (MI Cat), and County Commissioner Gordon Bickel.

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**APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Water Resources Commissioner Campbell updated the Board regarding ongoing drainage projects in the County. Glenwood Drain: Per Campbell, the project is to the point of obtaining easements. Indian Lake: due to habitual flooding problems, a joint project will be done with the CCRC to provide the labor to install a pipe and Water Resources to pay for the materials. Williamsville St.: The project is moving forward and a preliminary survey has begun.

Commissioner Bickel: Commended the Road Commission on the work done on Robbins Lake Road.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES (8-20-09)**

Commissioner Poehlman noted the following corrections to the minutes of 8-20-09: Page 309, first paragraph, fourth line, should say "without approval from the inspector" and page 312 last line under road tour: should read "looked at some road grades." The Clerk will make the corrections to the minute book.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED MINUTES**

Commissioner Poehlman moved to approve the minutes of 8-20-09 as amended. Commissioner Powers seconded and the motion was carried.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS & MILEAGE**

Poehlman	NATS Mtg.-Niles MI	9-29-09	4 hrs.	18 miles
Krempec	Legislative Mtg.-CCRC	8-24-09	4 hrs	32 miles
	Frugal 5-Coldwater	8-25-09	4 hrs	32 miles
Powers	Legislative Mtg.-CCRC	8-24-09	4 hrs	48 miles

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Bowser said that the committee discussed the upcoming budget and reported that the good news is that the cash flow is holding its own. The bills were approved for payment and the committee will be available to answer any questions.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairman Powers said that the meeting last week was cancelled due to illness and was rescheduled for today.

## **NATS MEETING**

Commissioner Poehlman reported that the meeting was short with the main business being the approval of several project amendments to move them from FY 2009 to FY 2010 by the CCRC. Manager Csokasy said that Berrien County may not do some of their approved projects due to budgetary concerns and would have unused approved funds which could be traded to Cass County. That possibility will be discussed at a later date.

## **FRUGAL 5 MEETING REPORT**

Chairman Krempec reported on the last Frugal 5 meeting held in Branch County and said that it was one of the better meetings with discussions on labor contracts, staff numbers, traffic counts, bridges, self insurance and gravel roads. Csokasy gave a brief review on the CCRC gravel road presentation and some of the member road commissions are interested in having Chief Engineer Bellina come and do the full presentation.

The body made a decision to meet on a quarterly basis instead of semi annually with the next meeting scheduled for November 9, 2009 here.

## **MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Manager Csokasy presented the following recap to the Board.

Projects: to date, fifty projects have been completed and twenty-two miles of federal stimulus chip and seal projects are now being done.

Outside the white line project: work continues on how to improve methods of mowing, tree cutting /trimming and brush removal. Manager Csokasy said that he anticipates the implementation of a roadside spraying program next year and he will continue to research the process and vendors.

MOR Committee: Pothole requests are down to seven with the oldest at twenty-one days. Their goal is to achieve a response time of fourteen days and creating a four-person specialty crew to answer service requests will be created.

Financials: Cash flow report is positive, more MTF received and fewer payables than projected for the month resulted in a net increase instead of decrease. Csokasy reported that FY 2009 should end with cash reserves in pretty good shape and work on the FY 2010 budget continues.

Operations: The staff has returned to a five eight-hour day schedule. Csokasy said that he thought the change to four ten-hour days resulted in a more efficient asphalt season because it allowed for better mobilization of employees and equipment. In an informal survey, thirty union workers said that they would be in favor of the four-day schedule next year.

## **ENGINEER'S UPDATE**

Chief Engineer Bellina reported that the federal stimulus chip and seal projects are being done and the billing paperwork is being submitted for payment as quickly and he reported that the state turn around for payment is about three weeks. Plans are to go back to sweep the loose stones from the chip and seal application and Bellina reported that the new material being used has proven to generate less waste.

Mason St. Project: Work is set to begin and the road will be closed with all affected schools to be notified of the detour route. Per Bellina, the project will be done at approximately the same time as the Redfield Street bridge.

Redfield Street Bridge: the project is set to begin between September 14-21 and the target date for completion is November 01, 2009.

Lake Sewer Project (Marcellus and Volinia): Bellina attended a kickoff meeting yesterday and the work is set to begin next week and the contractor has been selected.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **GRADER BID AWARD**

Manager Csokasy detailed the pros and cons of each machine that was bid including the buy back options. He said that he looked at each bid not based on the lowest bid price but the most value and user function. Csokasy noted that some of the three companies included alternate bid options which were reviewed.

Looking at equipment functions, he felt that all of the graders were acceptable. Michigan Cat offered the highest buyback of \$105,000 (five years) on the new machine and with their buyback and the trade in, the net result will be that Michigan Cat will write a check for \$9,000 to the CCRC.

After the comparison, Manager Csokasy recommended purchase of the unit from Michigan Cat.

##### **MOTION:**

Commissioner Powers moved to accept the bid and enter into an agreement with Michigan Cat to purchase a 12M Motor Grader in exchange for the buyback option of \$90,000. on two graders and the trade in of a third. Commissioner Poehlman seconded and after discussion on training and the hand controls. the motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Krempec said that the MDOT project contracts will be read by number and road name and instructed the Clerk to type the resolutions in their entirety into the minutes.

##### **RESOLUTION/CONTRACT HUNTLY RD.**

WHEREAS...the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Cass, Michigan desires their Chairman, Leroy Krempec, to sign a negotiated contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the following:

MDOT Contract Number 09-5555

Control Section	EDDF 14555
Job Number	107355
Project:	STP 0914(036)
Federal Item No.	HH 6068
CFDA No.	20.205 (Highway Research Planning & Construction)

Hot mix asphalt resurfacing work and aggregate shoulder work along Huntly Road from Lake Street northerly to Holly Street; and all together with necessary related work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED...that Chairman Krempec is hereby authorized to sign the negotiated contract and Clerk Grace Chester is authorized to attest by also signing the negotiated contract.

##### **MOTION**

Commissioner Powers moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION/CONTRACT-ELKHART RD.**

WHEREAS...the Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Cass, Michigan desires their Chairman, Leroy Krempec, to sign a negotiated contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the following:

MDOT Contract Number 09-5575

CAB

Control Section	STU 14400
Job Number	107687
Project:	STP 0914(037)
Federal Item No.	HH 6069
CFDA No.	20.205 (Highway Research Planning & Construction)

Hot mix asphalt resurfacing work along Elkhart Road from the south Michigan state line to Redfield Street; and all together with necessary related work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED...that Chairman Krempec is hereby authorized to sign the negotiated contract and Clerk Grace Chester is authorized to attest by also signing the negotiated contract.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Powers moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Note: A question by County Commissioner Bickel resulted in the motions being restated and done with roll call votes as noted above.

**PARKS' LEASE UPDATE**

Manager Csokasy told the Board that he had been contacted by the County Parks' Board regarding their three leases with the road commission for reimbursement of the Parks Directors' salary, building space rental and equipment rental that will expire at the end of this month. Csokasy said that this is informational only action will be considered at a later date.

There was a brief discussion on the road commission equipment that the park uses and whether the parks' board will continue to lease or will make an outright purchase of the equipment that is used exclusively by the parks.

**PROPOSED BUILDING RENTAL**

Csokasy reported that he has had several preliminary discussions with the Cass County Drug Enforcement Task Force and the Sheriff's Department about leasing 8,000 square feet of CCRC garage space to be used for secured storage for the Task Force. Manager Csokasy has started work on the lease plan and when completed, he will bring it to the Board for consideration.

**PERMITS**

The Board reviewed the following signed permits.

**Driveway**

09-07-20-9327	Kestrel Drive	Milton	Tim Ashton/Birkey Homes
09-13-09-9331	Dixon	Silver Creek	Richard Meisterheim/Triple E Asphalt
09-13-32-9332	Sink	Silver Creek	Edward Goodman/Bailey Asphalt

09-07-14-9333 Brush Rd. Milton Jeffrey Plock/Daugherty Concrete

**Utilities**

09-10-30-9334 Diamond Harbor Ct. Penn Verizon

09-10-32-9328 Cara Ave Penn Semco

09-15-15-9329 Olive St Wayne Semco

09-06-17-9334 Cassopolis St Mason Verizon

**OTHER/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

Commissioner Powers reviewed the meeting that he set up with area road commissions and the legislators held on Monday, August 24, at the CCRC. .

Powers said that it was a good meeting with Berrien, St. Joseph, and VanBuren County Road Commissions represented and State Representatives John Proos (District 79), and Matt Lorie (District 59) and Bob Wagel, representing State Senator Ron Jelinek in attendance.

Per Powers, the road commissions explained their funding problems and the legislators explained their funding problems but he thought the meeting resulted in a better understanding of both sides of the road issues.

Also, discussed were possible legislative plans to increase license fees by 50%. Powers compared that option with raising the gas tax by \$.05 a gallon, and said he would have to purchase 9,000 gallons of gas to equal the amount his license fees would increase and he thought a gas tax would be a better plan for the public and the roads.

Poehlman said that if the state raised license tags that much, companies will just move their base of operation out of Michigan to a less expensive state.

**CO. LIAISON COMMENTS**

County Commissioner Bickel asked how roads were chosen to be submitted as projects for stimulus money and asked why none were selected from Porter Township.

Chief Engineer Bellina explained the process and said that certain length requirements had to be met and the stimulus money could not be used on local roads. Csokasy said that projects were evaluated on the basis of most need.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:00 A.M., Powers moved to adjourn. Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried.

CLERK Grace Chester

ACTING  
CHAIRMAN Robert W. Powers

Minutes approved by Board action 9-17-09