

November 19, 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 Commissioner Krempec

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Public Present: Norma Lerner, Barbara Dempsey (Press), Roseann Marchetti (Parks' Board), Pete Fournier (Porter Twp.), Lois Jacobson (CCRC retiree), Harry Shaffer (Penn Twp.), Jackie Goodman, County Commissioner Ed Goodman and County Commissioner Gordon Bickel. _____

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

Changes to agenda: Chairman Krempec noted there will be no Finance Committee Report.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fournier: Reported on the Williamsville Drain meeting that he attended and said that the large crowd mostly agreed that the drain was needed but did not support having to pay for it.

Jacobson: CCRC retiree asked if the Board Members had received the letter she sent and offered to answer any questions that they might have. Krempec said that he needed time to read the letter and would contact her with any questions.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED MINUTES

Correction: Fournier said that page 336 (4th paragraph) regarding his comments should read "a map of all county points of interest that have signs or plaques" not "all points of interest." The clerk will amend the record.

Commissioner Poehlman moved to approve the minutes of 11-05-09 as amended. Commissioner Powers seconded and the motion was carried.

SPECIAL MEETINGS & MILEAGE

Poehlman	10-27-09	NATS Meeting, Niles	4 hours	18 miles
Krempec	10-27-09	Special Parks' Board Meeting	4 hours	38 miles
_____	11-09-09	Safety Committee Meeting-CCRC	4 hours	38 miles
Powers	11-09-09	SW Rd. Commission Council	4 hours	196 miles

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Krempec said that the CCRC safety committee met on November 9. He noted that flu shots will be made available to employees this month. To address an earlier issue, proper lighting has been installed to the shoulder machine. Answering a question, Krempec said the safety committee is made up eight members who meet on the second Monday of each month.

Strapping of loads (brush, trees, etc.): Discussion held but no decision; however, most members favor leaving the decision to the discretion of the driver.

Inspection: CRASIF safety inspection has been scheduled for 12-16-09.

Inmate Workers: Concerns were discussed regarding the use of jail inmate workers on the tree and brush crews. One question was whether they should or could be covered on our insurance. Safety Committee Chairman Lance Stevenson spoke of problems with adequate safety training for the inmates if they are rotated on a daily basis. Stevenson said it would be impossible to train for the job or teach safety procedures with such a frequent turnover.

COUNTY PARKS' BOARD

Krempec said that a majority of the meeting concerned finance matters and the budget.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The policy committee is in process of meeting with applicable staff members for their comments on existing policies.

NATS REPORT

A representative for the Pokagon Band gave a slide presentation about the Tribe and their contribution to the local community. Commissioner Poehlman recommended that, if possible, the other Board Members should see the presentation. Manager Csokasy said that the Board has made a commitment to take an offsite tour monthly and he suggested making arrangements to go to the Pokagon Offices to see the presentation.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Manager Csokasy said that the paving season closed on November 16 and 800 tons of cold patch was made for winter use.

Sink Road: two miles of asphalt overlay was applied by the road commission with funding from the Pokagon Band through the BOIA and Pokagon Township. Csokasy recommended placing a sign on that section of road acknowledging their contribution.

Village of Vandalia: Bogue Street paving project is completed. Additional work was required because of the wet soil at the road edge.

Work: Preparations to winterize the asphalt plant have begun.

Williamsville Drain Board of Determination: the issue was not popular with the large crowd. After public comment and discussion, the three person Board approved the request to form the drainage district. The process will continue to move forward.

Frugal 5 meeting: Members Hillsdale, Barry, Branch, St. Joseph and Cass. Similar sized counties with similar issues. Csokasy said that Bellina's gravel road presentation was well received and many good ideas were exchanged

OPERATIONS

Surges Road: Completed since the last meeting, Csokasy said this project has been controversial for many years in Milton Township but it was included in Milton's three year road plan.

Dowagiac Airport: A brush and tree clearing project for the airport authority will begin soon.

New grader: Will be delivered in mid December. Csokasy explained that three existing graders were turned in to purchase one new grader. This will also result in the CCRC receiving payment of \$10,000. from Michigan Cat.

ENGINEER'S UPDATE

Chief Engineer Bellina reported on current engineering projects and activities. .

Surface evaluation: Seventy percent of paved roads in the county have been reviewed and evaluated. Bellina said this is required to be done every three years and Newberg, Ontwa, Porter, and Marcellus Townships remain.

Non Motorized Path: Resolution and contract are to be presented later in the meeting. This project will be done with CMAQ funding and will create a non motorized path to the County Library and other outlying county buildings. Csokasy said these funds can only be received through application by the CCRC and the matching money will be paid by the County and/or the Village of Cassopolis. Bellina said that the path will be off the roadway, adjacent to the shoulder and will not be an official road.

Critical Bridge Funding: Bellina said that reconstruction of the Redfield Road Bridge has been approved for state critical bridge funding in the amount of \$963,000 for FY 2012.

Commissioner Poehlman told the Board that the Pokagon Band has elected to go forward with the Sink Road Bridge project. Engineering plans will have to be done before approval of the funds and hopefully that will be next year.

Fournier: Who will be responsible for winter maintenance of the non-motorized path. Bellina said that the County and the Village of Cassopolis are working on that.

CAD System: Bellina plans to set up a demonstration of the CAD system that the state uses.

Commissioner Powers said this will be the first year of use for the three new wing plows and noted that the state has a DVD available on their operation. He said that it would be beneficial and a good tool for CCRC drivers. Csokasy said that the wing plows will be used on primary roads and a survey taken reported these plows should be forty percent more effective.

Winter: Current snow routes are being evaluated to see if they can be made more efficient. Also, Csokasy said there probably will not be a third shift implemented.

Meeting: CCRC staff held a meeting here with school transportation departments on winter operations.

MEETING REMINDERS: ASMRC 2009 Annual Conference, 12/7-9/2009, Frankenmuth, MI

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION/CONTRACT

NON MOTORIZED PATHWAY-VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS/CASS CO.

Chairman Krempec presented the following resolution:

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 09-5669

Control Section	CM 14400
Job Number	107585
Project:	CM 0914(042)

Federal Item No. RR 7010
CFDA No. 20.205 (Highway Research Planning & Construction)

Non-motorized pathway work along Highway M-62 from approximately 300 feet south of Hilton Street to approximately 800 feet west of Horne Road; including concrete pavement, grading, and tree removal work; 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.

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

PERMITS

Driveway

10-05-10-1014	Brody St	Marcellus	Verizon
10-15-32-1031	Sunset	Wayne	Barry Yakim/Triple E Asphalt
10-07-15-1033	Fir	Milton	Dennis Lewis/Affordable Bulldozing
10-09-08-1039	Fox Crossing	Ontwa	Garden Homes

Utilities

10-03-10-1029	North St	Jefferson	Verizon
10-05-15-1034	Brody St	Marcellus	Midwest Energy
10-13-04-1035	Karl St	Silver Creek	AEP
10-02-21-1038	Barron Lake Rd.	Howard	AT&T

OTHER/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

SW Rd. Commission Council: Powers reported that a representative from MDOT was at the ten county meeting he attended and he told them that audits of state projects will be done as usual but the Federal Stimulus projects will be much more detailed. Insurance: consideration of combining MCRSIP and CRASIF Pools into one which Powers said he does not support. A committee will study the proposal and offer a recommendation.

M-60: Poehlman said he noticed that the signs on M-60 about water on the road have been taken down. Csokasy said that the state contract to do the M60 project was awarded to Reith/Riley with no consideration of allowing CCRC to bid on the job.

State Contract Update: Csokasy said that he has emailed the state that if they want to proceed with making CCRC a contracted state agency, the road commission is in agreement if the arrangement makes economic sense for both parties involved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 a.m., Commissioner Bowser moved for adjournment. Commissioner Poehlman seconded and the motion was carried.

CLERK Grace Chester

CHAIRMAN Leroy R. Krempec

Minutes approved by Board action 12-03-09 (one typo was noted)