

February 17, 2011

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

Board Members Present: Commissioner Fournier, Commissioner Poehlman, Commissioner Krempec, Commissioner Bowser, & Commissioner Celie

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

County Commissioner Roseann Marchetti, Norma Lerner, and Harry Shaffer.

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shaffer: Provided a brief update on the water project from Donnell to Diamond Lake and reported that public response had been good.

Marchetti: Said that she had traveled all around Cass County and had no problem with the roads. Noted she received positive comments from citizens who had called the road commission about the way they were treated.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING

Poehlman moved to approve the minutes of 1-20-11 as presented. Celie seconded and the motion was carried.

REPORT OF SPECIAL MEETINGS & MILEAGE

Krempec	2-14-11	CCRC Safety Meeting	4 hours	32 miles
Poehlman	2-14-11	SW R.C. Council-Hastings	4 hrs	192 miles
Celie	2-03-11	Finance Mtg.-CCRC	4 hrs	24 miles
	2-14-11	SW R.C Council-Hastings	4 hrs	24 miles
Fournier	2-09-11	Co Parks' Board	4 hrs	32 miles
	2-14-11	SW R.C. Council-Hastings	4 hrs	32 miles

REPORTS

NATS

Poehlman reported there was no meeting held last month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Celie & Bowser)

Committee Chairman Celie reported that at this morning's meeting, the current bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Celie also reported on a Finance meeting he attended last week where the financial forecast reports were reviewed and updated. These reports provided a comparison of projects costs to budget projects.

Federal/state projects are estimated at \$900,000 and townships \$600,000 with total revenue estimated at 8 million. Budget projections 6.5 million (close to last years) Going over the expense side of it, for budget cost-loss of \$800,000 looks better for the upcoming year. Hoping for even cash like last year.

Bowser said currently the Committee continues looking at the formulas in the forecast reports and refining the reports.

COUNTY PARKS (Fournier)

Budget: Tracking true to last year-discussion on electrical rate increases.

Friends of the Park: Suggestion by Interim Administrator Clarke take a more prominent role in generating funds.

Lawless Activities: Winter Nights attendance so far this year stands at more than 600 compared to 400 last year.

Lawless Building: Will go to County Board of Commissioners for approval on March3 with a preliminary estimate

for construction of \$138,000.

Baldwin Boat Launch: Much discussion between the County Parks, the road commission and Porter Township. Fournier said it is now believed the launch is owned by the road commission. Csokasy noted the plat map lists the site as a park not a road but if it is the road commission's responsibility, then it will be fixed before boat season. There was further discussion on this matter and Csokasy said if it is a road, then he would consider abandoning it the DNR would then get first option to it.

Schools: Parks Director Wyman has been speaking at several local schools where several of the students have expressed an interest in volunteering at the parks.

CCRC SAFETY COMMITTEE (Krempec)

Krempec reported on the February 14 meeting.

Salt Shed: Suggestion that the lighting needs to be improved is being investigated by Janssen.

Snow Mobiles: Concern regarding the "speed bumps" left by the snow mobiles that the plows are hitting.

Wing plows: Discussed damage to the plows as a result of using the plows to push snow off the road and using them as steps to get into the unit.

Blade Rack: Krempec reported a malfunction that is being worked on.

MCRCSIP Safety Inspection: Review of the results of a recent inspection. Noted on report: chain saw scabbards not being replaced, empty LP container in the oxygen rack, non working overhead door sensors and some unlabeled liquid containers in the mechanic area. Krempec said these safety issues will be addressed.

Employees: One injured employee still off due to a back injury.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Weather event: February 1st snow storm accompanied by high wind. Both day and night crews each worked twelve hour shifts and by the end of the first day the countywide road system was functioning.

Maintenance: Brush work, snow pushback, equipment maintenance. Pothole season has begun and one crew is working daily on filling them.

Joint Purchasing Council: Announced yearly material bid openings will be held on Friday, February 25, 2011 for culverts, cold patch, aggregate materials, asphalt materials and liquid dust control. The Council will open, tabulate and make award recommendations to both Boards.

Townships: Manager Csokasy said he has been attending many township meetings. He will be in Silvercreek today to discuss the three year road plan.

Porter: Central and Idlewilde have a historic flooding problem and people cannot access their homes so a plan is being developed for that area.

Calvin: Csokasy said it looks like the township plans to move head with a township road millage again this year.

Kalamazoo County: Meeting held with Joanna Johnson and discussion on a time card Kiosk system they use. Csokasy said both counties use the same software program and the system has a minimal cost.

Meetings: The Manager said he holds monthly meetings with the hourly staff and weekly meetings with the salaried staff.

Financial: Yearly audit is completed and filed with the state and was presented to the Board at the last meeting. The ACT 51 report is in progress.

Cash: MTF received in February was \$332,512 almost exactly the budget amount of \$331,744. Year to date MTF

is approximately \$65,000 ahead of the budget. Receipts exceeded expectations and cash at the beginning of February was \$1,132,000 compared to budgeted amount of \$1,836,800.

OPERATIONS

Snow storm: Janssen said that due to high winds, three trucks were taken out of operation due to limited visibility. When the winds stop, it gave crews time to get caught up on the plowing.

Operations: Year to date, 1500 ton of salt has been used with a slightly heavier mixture. Potholes running two trucks a day to get them patched.

Lake Operations: Using a small truck around the lakes and on small subdivision roads is going to be tried. It is thought that the truck would work better than using a tractor and then having to come back with other equipment to finish the job. A truck was purchased from the City of Dowagiac and an old salter was modified and mounted on the truck and it will be operational when the salter controls arrive and are installed. Janssen said that hopes are to give it a good trial in the next big snow. Janssen said the road commission is working to be as efficient as it can be and best use its equipment and manpower that we have.

Equipment: Currently ten farming variety tractors are being used and if the small truck experiment goes as expected, the number of tractors will be decreased to five.

Brush: The crew is concentrating on the gravel roads and working in District 2. Next, they will move to District 3 to prepare roads for the roadside spray program.

Second Shift: Bowser said a difference can be seen with the second shift. Poehlman said that he had received many good comments about the second shift.

ENGINEERING

Redfield Bridge: The survey work has begun for the bridge replacement.

Other Bridge Projects: Bellina said that an informational county bridge and culvert presentation was done at the County. County Treasurer Irwin and Interim County Administrator Clarke were present. A review of all existing structures was presented along with their current condition and cost to repair. Csokasy said he is following correct procedure to solicit County Board participation in helping to fund these repairs and in due course, he will make a presentation to the full Board of County Commissioners. Bellina noted that nine bridges have load restrictions in place and one is closed.

Federal Projects: Work continues to process the federal work that is planned for the upcoming year. Bellina said that nineteen projects are estimated to be completed. Materials have arrived for the retrofitting the asphalt plant for the M205 grant project; the start date for the project is the first week of June. Under Urban projects, it has been elected to change Matthews Street to Wilbur Hill Road. A complete re construction will be done.

Williamsville Drain: Bellina met with the Drain Commissioner and the project is set to start any day.

NEW BUSINESS

CRAM BALLOT-Southern Commission Board of Directors (3 year term)

After discussion, Poehlman moved to cast votes for Watkins from Hillsdale County. Bowser seconded and the motion was carried. The Clerk was instructed to return the completed ballot.

2010 CERTIFICATION MAP

The only change reported on the certification map was Gumwood Road (Milton Township, Sec 21, Sheet # 07, from Redfield Street to Indiana/Michigan State Line. .63 moved from a local road to urban.

Justification: Traffic count is 5,329 vehicles per day, second highest in Cass County. Also, previous coordination with MDOT to switch to primary once Federal Aid money has been spent on this section, which it was done last year.

MOTION

Poehlman moved to approve the certification map as presented and authorize for signature. Celie seconded and the motion was carried.

MEETINGS

Reminder: FRUGAL 5, Monday, February 28, 2010 here at Cass County.
CRAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE, March 8-10, 2011, Lansing, MI

PERMITS

Road Superintendent Janssen said there were no problems with permits.

Driveway

11-13-27-1191 Middle Crossing Silver Creek Serge Antipou

Utility

11-04-30-1195 Pokagon Hwy LaGrange Midwest Energy

ROW

11-17-09-1184 Sunset Blvd-ROW Porter Charles Carter
11-03-01-1192 Lake St – Pier Jefferson Little Kamp Kozy
11-07-14-1196 Brush Rd-ROW Milton Rosselit/Ferguson Michiana

Annual

11-04-25-1183 Cass County Roads – Ann OS-OW Fillmore Equip
11-04-25-1185 Cass County Roads – Ann OS-OW AIS
11-04-25-1186 Cass County Roads – Ann OS-OW Minnesota Limited Inc
11-04-25-1187 Cass County Roads – Tree Trimming AT&T
11-04-25-1188 “ “ “-Maint & Repair AT & T
11-04-25-1189 “ “ “-Svc Conn AT & T
11-04-25-1190 “ “ “-Maint & Repair Comcast of Indiana

OTHER/COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Poehlman commented on the notes that Fournier took at the Southwestern Road Commission meeting saying that he did a good job on the synopsis of what happened.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:05, Bowser moved to adjourn. Celie seconded and the motion was carried.

CHAIRMAN _____ CLERK _____