

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

PRESENT: Commissioner Scott Brown, Chairman
Commissioner Hugh Coward, Vice Chairman (via teleconference)
Commissioner Eric Johnson, Member
Commissioner Eric Tobin, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
General Public

Mr. Henning called the regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. for the 2011 selection of officers and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Tobin to nominate Commissioner Scott Brown as Board Chairman for 2011. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Tobin to nominate Commissioner Hugh Coward as Board Vice Chairman for 2011. Voice vote: Motion carried.

At this time Mr. Henning turned the meeting over to Chairman Brown.

Motion made by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve the Claims Payable Listing ending December 29, 2010 for \$505,564.03. Roll call vote: Johnson-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Coward-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Tobin to approve the December 15, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Henning read the communications as follows:

- a) Received correspondence from Mr. Kevin Henning to Mr. and Mrs. Loyer declining their offer to purchase the vacant land off Division Drive in Section 32 in Marengo Township
- b) Received correspondence from Mrs. Erin Cummings, Permit Agent, regarding a new road named Mishkoswen Road in Section 20 of Athens Township
- c) Received correspondence from Mrs. Erin Cummings, Permit Agent, regarding Traffic Safety Requirements

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- ***Approve the recommendation to decline the offer for purchase of CCRC vacant land:*** Mr. Henning asked the Board to approve his recommendation declining the Loyer's offer to purchase vacant land off Division Drive in Section 32 of Marengo Township.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Tobin to approve Mr. Henning's recommendation to decline the purchase offer for the vacant land off Division Drive in Section 32 of Marengo Township. Voice vote: Motion carried.

- **Snow Removal:** We continue to address snow removal as necessary. Yesterday, the snow event struck with a fury and caused some slide-offs, especially on the west side of the county. He noted that he inspected many roads and found that product had been placed appropriately.
- **Tree Trimming:** We have been aggressively trimming trees when we are not doing winter operations. The excavator/hydrahoe has been working on 20 Mile Road, north of Partello and we have done a significant amount of work on Division Drive, from Homer Road to Albion. We are trying to open up the roads, as the canopies have grown over.
- **Pothole Patching:** Mr. Henning informed the Board that we are changing our approach to pothole patching in 2011. We are splitting the county into three districts for pothole repair. Supervisor Adams will oversee the townships on the east side of the county, Supervisor Stacy the centrally located townships, and Supervisor Kline the westerly townships. When they are not plowing, employees will patch potholes on their assigned snow routes. Hopefully, this will provide a quicker response to potholes and we won't have as many open service requests. At this time, we have seven open pothole service requests, but Mr. Henning clarified that this is based on what has been reported and there may be more. Commissioner Brown asked if this would create a level of accountability, as we often hear from the public that we patch some holes but not all. Mr. Henning agreed that this would streamline patching operations.

Commissioner Vreeland asked if GPS units had been installed in all trucks and if Mr. Henning was able to track equipment from his office. Mr. Henning replied that at this time, all but 12 trucks have GPS units. He noted that we are working with our GPS provider to have this available on our website.

Commissioner Tobin asked how the roads that have been patched with the Durapatcher are holding up since he has seen some loose material. Mr. Henning responded that they seem to be fine as it is the same material used on our sealcoat roads. The loose material is put on top to keep the emulsion from tracking.

Commissioner Brown asked why employees are not calling in or writing up service requests for potholes when they are driving the roads on a daily basis.

Commissioner Vreeland asked how the See Click Fix service requests are closed. Mr. Henning replied that they are closed out by our Receptionist. Discussion continued on the cost for live feed images.

Commissioner Brown asked the status of the Truck and Bituminous Distributor bid. At the last meeting, a representative from AIS Construction Equipment was present to share information about the possibility of purchasing a used chassis. Mr. Henning noted that he met with Mr. Ely from AIS to discuss his proposal. The used chassis is only good if we purchase the Etnyre tank which was not the lowest bid tank so Mr. Henning stated that he was less inclined to see that as a substantial savings. He noted that they did discuss the Etnyre tank and that we wanted a tank that sprayed direct oil and not emulsion to save on costs. The tank that AIS bid would need to be upgraded at a greater cost. Mr. Henning noted that he is still gathering research, but at this time his recommendation would be to purchase a new chassis and a Rosco tank. His rationale behind purchasing a new chassis is primarily the factory warranty and that the bid was for a new, not used, chassis. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Coward asked if we could do a press release with our 800 number and new website address, and include the new strategy for pothole patching. Mr. Henning agreed that this would be a good idea.

SUPERVISOR AND PUBLIC OFFICIAL COMMENTS

County Commissioner Julie Camp stated she was happy to meet Commissioner Johnson and thanked the Board and Mr. Henning for his report and keeping everyone informed. She suggested updating the Facebook page with the new website information and pothole patching strategy. Commissioner Camp stated that she received many complaints last year regarding mowing, especially at intersections where there were clear vision issues. She suggested targeting the worst intersections for earlier mowing. Regarding the pothole patching strategy, she asked if the worst roads map played a part in creating the three "districts".

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Joe Bramble, Convis Township resident, suggested sending the Press Release to the Marshall Ad-Visor and Battle Creek Shopper. Commissioner Camp suggested sending it to the Senior Times magazine.

COMMISSIONERS TIME

Commissioner Vreeland publically recognized Chairman Brown for his work on our new website and the associated cost savings.

Commissioner Tobin echoed Commissioner Vreeland's recognition of Chairman Brown for his work on the website.

Commissioner Johnson commented that he appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Board and will do his best to listen and learn.

Commissioner Brown welcomed Commissioner Johnson and looks forward to working with him. He also noted that there is a free application on our website that allows people to share their ideas with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Deputy Board Clerk

Scott A. Brown, Chairman