

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, December 21, 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
Commissioner Eric Johnson, Member
Commissioner Eric Tobin, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
Mary Jo Crumpton, Clerk
General Public

Chairman Scott Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve the Claims Payable Listing ending December 14, 2011 for \$125,690.35. Roll call vote: Vreeland-Yes; Coward-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve the December 14, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a) Received the 2012 budget for the Calhoun County Road Commission
- b) Received the 2012 Fee Schedule
- c) Received a bid award recommendation for Cutting Edges
- d) Received a bid award recommendation for Tee and Stump Removal for 2012 and 2013

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approve the 2012 Budget for the Calhoun County Road Commission: Mr. Henning noted that the Public Hearing on the 2012 Budget was held last Wednesday evening. He requested Board approval of the 2012 Budget.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the 2012 Budget for the Calhoun County Road Commission. Roll call vote: Coward-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Approve the 2012 Fee Schedule: Mr. Henning informed the Board that the 2012 Fee Schedule reflects the 2% increase in wages per the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Schedule C rates.

Motion made by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the 2012 Fee Schedule. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Coward-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Award the Cutting Edges bid to Valk Mfg. Co. Mr. Henning stated that we received four bids in response to our request for bids for cutting edges that are primarily for standard belly blades. The bid specified flame hardened and only one bidder met the specification requirements. Mr. Henning noted that the blades we had been purchasing from St. Regis are carbon steel, not flame hardened. It is estimated that flame hardened blades last three times longer. Mr. Henning requested Board approval to award the Cutting Edges bid to Valk Mfg. Co. for 2012 and 2013.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Coward to award the Cutting Edges bid to Valk Mfg. Co. for 2012 and 2013. Commissioner Brown stated that the Valk Mfg. Co. blades are made in the USA, whereas the St. Regis blades are made in Canada. **Roll call vote: Johnson-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Coward-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.**

Award the Tree and Stump Removal bid to R & S Tree Service: Mr. Henning stated that R & S Tree Service is our current bid holder and was also the lowest bidder in response to our request for bids for 2012 and 2013. He explained that R & S Tree Service's bid for 2012 and 2013 is lower than what we are currently paying. Mr. Henning noted that we have had good service with R & S and have been pleased with their response time and performance. Commissioner Tobin disclosed to the Board that his brother is employed by Asplundh Tree Expert Co. who also submitted a bid. Mr. Henning requested Board approval to award the Tree and Stump Removal bid to R & S Tree Service for 2012 and 2013.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Johnson to award the Tree and Stump Removal bid to R & S Tree Service for 2012 and 2013. Roll call vote: Vreeland-Yes; Coward-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Other: Mr. Henning notified the Board that after the first of the year, he will be submitting a policy on sign retro-reflectivity for Board consideration. The policy will include our position and our process for dealing with how reflective our signs are throughout the county. It is a requirement of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that is being passed down to MDOT who is passing it down to CCRC as the new standard. Engineer grade sign sheeting is a thing of the past, as everyone is now going to High Intensity Pixels (HIP) blanks. We have until 2015 to move our sign inventory on our roads to an HIP system. This is an unfunded mandate that we expect will cost the Road Commission approximately \$2.8 million in sign upgrades. Commissioner Brown noted that this cost for sign replacement equates to approximately 178 miles of road that could be chip and sealed. Commissioner Coward asked if the FHWA's requirement included any demarcation between local, primary, and state trunkline roads. Mr. Henning replied no, the requirement applies to all county roads.

Mr. Henning noted that we have been using HIP signs for stop signs for many years. However, the policy will include our process to "ease into" these new AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards which also includes new requirements on the size and letters of road markers. He explained that there are five different testing methods that we can go through to test our signs to see if they meet the AASHTO standards for retro-reflectivity and we will need to adopt a method or combination of methods for our sign program. Mr. Henning noted that he will share more information on this requirement at a future meeting and pointed out that this is the type of mandate that "eats away" at our budget and doesn't improve the surface condition of our roads.

Mr. Henning added that the Federal Highway Administration is also looking at mandating retro-reflectivity in pavement marking as well, and he noted that we have significantly reduced our pavement marking budget in the past few years. We are marking primary roads every other year or every two years and we are not doing fog lines unless the road is hilly or curvy. Discussion continued.

We are enjoying the mild December weather and crews have been patching daily, cutting trees, doing guardrail projects and working on drainage issues caused by the beaver population.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioner Tobin stated that while he would have liked to see the 5-year plan to fruition, he is happy with the job that Mr. Henning has done and does not believe that Mr. Henning is responsible for the financial difficulties of the Road Commission. He added that Mr. Henning did a tremendous job bringing CCRC's finances in line and resolved the issues with the Duck Lake project. Commissioner Tobin stated that he is impressed with Mr. Henning's presentations and how he addresses the public. He acknowledged that the roads and road

funding issues are not going to fix themselves and believes the Board must continue to look at local options. Commissioner Tobin stated that he appreciates the time spent with the Commissioners while serving on the Board.

Commissioner Brown welcomed Doug Wildt who was recently appointed to the Road Commission Board effective January 1, 2012.

Commissioner Brown thanked Commissioner Tobin for his four years of service to the Road Commission and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. In light of Commissioner Tobin's love and passion for the county parks, Commissioner Brown presented Commissioner Tobin with a framed photograph of the lighted bridges at Bridge Park taken several years ago.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Scott A. Brown, Chairman