

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, July 20, 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 Christopher Vreeland, Member  
Commissioner Eric Tobin, Member

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Eric Johnson, Member - Excused

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kevin Henning, Managing Director  
Mary Jo Crumpton, Board 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 Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the Claims Payable Listing ending July 13, 2011 for \$456,123.59. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Coward-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve the July 6, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a) Received Resolution 2011-10 regarding MDOT Contract 11-5414 for the paving work along F Drive South from 17 to 22 ½ Mile Road
- b) Received Resolution 2011-11 regarding MDOT Contract 11-5446 for the resurfacing work along 15 Mile Road from Michigan Avenue to Verona Road
- c) Received Resolution 2011-12 regarding MDOT Contract 11-5447 for the resurfacing work along B Drive North from M-66 to 6 ½ Mile Road

#### **MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Approve Resolution 2011-10:** Mr. Henning explained that this resolution is for the paving work along F Drive South with federal aid funding. He requested approval of Resolution 2011-10 authorizing the Managing Director to execute the contract on behalf of the Calhoun County Road Commission.

**Motion made by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve Resolution 2011-10 regarding MDOT Contract 11-5414 for paving work along F Drive South from 17 to 22 ½ Mile Road. Roll call vote: Coward-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.**

**Approve Resolution 2011-11:** Mr. Henning explained that this resolution is for the resurfacing work along 15 Mile Road from Michigan Avenue to Verona Road with federal aid funding. He requested approval of Resolution 2011-11 authorizing the Managing Director to execute the contract on behalf of the Calhoun County Road Commission.

**Motion made by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve Resolution 2011-11 regarding MDOT Contract 11-5446 for resurfacing work along 15 Mile Road from Michigan Avenue to Verona Road. Roll call vote: Vreeland-Yes; Tobin-Yes; Coward-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.**

**Approve Resolution 2011-12:** Mr. Henning explained that this resolution is for the resurfacing work along B Drive North from M-66 to 6 ½ Mile Road with federal aid funding. He requested approval of Resolution 2011-12 authorizing the Managing Director to execute the contract on behalf of the Calhoun County Road Commission.

**Motion made by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve Resolution 2011-12 regarding MDOT Contract 11-5447 for resurfacing work along B Drive North from M-66 to 6 ½ Mile Road. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Coward-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.**

**Pothole Patching:** Mr. Henning provided a pothole report comparing open service requests this year through mid-April and those received through mid-July. He noted that as of 4-20-11, open service requests for patching were less than 20 in all townships. As of 7-15-11, we have over 900 open service request for pothole patching. He noted that in May we had over 7 ½ inches of rain and the month of June was spent on storm clean-up. Cold patch placed earlier this year failed.

**Storm Debris Clean Up:** Mr. Henning provided the Board with the storm clean up costs per township and the Board's right-of-way policy. He stated that he believes that our primary focus must be on patching to provide for safe travel on our roadways, from white line to white line. We are getting continual pressure from residents for storm clean up, primarily in Emmett Township. In the aftermath of the storm and in an effort to send a unified message through Unified Command, the Road Commission followed the City of Battle Creek's response plan and spent 4,000 labor hours and approximately \$300,000 on storm clean up. Mr. Henning noted, however, that service levels and funding mechanisms between the two agencies is vastly different.

Mr. Henning requested direction from the Board on if/how to proceed with clean up efforts and added that we have requested financial assistance from the County. He has continually stated that the Road Commission would reassess damage, but actual clean up efforts has been suspended. Commissioner Brown stated that this is bigger than just the Road Commission, a road agency governed by Act 51 which is specific on how funds can be used, and we have assisted with clean up efforts. We are responsible to provide safe roads for travel and need to prioritize patching efforts. Commissioner Vreeland commented that landowners are creating an unsafe right-of-way when they move their debris to the roadside. Commissioner Coward added that while the storm damage is catastrophic and needs to be dealt with, it is a countywide issue and the funds spent to date by CCRC on storm clean up should have been spent on road maintenance. Discussion continued on the "unified message" that was released in the aftermath of the storm.

Mike Olson, Emmett Township Public Safety, stated that in the aftermath of the storm, communication was poor and a mixed message went out to residents. He believes that this may have been because the City of Battle Creek has their own emergency management program, as does the County who was brought on board at a later date. Now there has been no communication to residents.

Pat Dougherty, Emmett Township Supervisor, agreed that Unified Command did not contact nor communicate with the Road Commission until days after the storm hit. There was poor communication to residents and "storm debris" was never defined nor clarified. He emphasized that all agencies involved need to come up with a solution and mechanism to fund the solution to finish what was started. He added that Emmett Township appreciates the efforts of the Road Commission on storm clean up.

Commissioner Coward suggested that residents be reminded that the Community Compost Center is still open and available for residents to drop off storm debris and asked that a press release on storm debris clean up be sent for clarification.

Commissioner Brown stated that he would contact Pat Dougherty to discuss this further.

**Calhoun County Trailway:** Mr. Henning informed the Board that \$30,000 has been deposited and earmarked for trailway design and engineering costs.

**Enbridge:** Mr. Henning noted that Enbridge is moving along with road repairs and resurfacing and provided a tentative map of mitigation sites and treatments for the routes that were used for hauling and detours. It was clarified that all contractors hired by Enbridge will be MDOT prequalified and all roadwork will be done in accordance with MDOT specifications. The Road Commission has the final word on contractors hired and will have our engineer or inspector on site at all times. Commissioner Vreeland asked if there were costs to the Road Commission for this work. Mr. Henning replied, no, we are only covering the cost for our engineer and inspector.

**SUPERVISOR AND PUBLIC OFFICIAL COMMENTS**

County Commissioner Frisbie commented that he recently met with Pennfield Township regarding their aggressive plan to resurface all the roads in their township and inquired about Road Commission matching funds. Commissioner Brown asked if the township had sent out a survey to residents as he had suggested. County Commissioner Frisbie replied that the township had not.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Joe Bramble, Convis Township resident, commented that he does not understand why residents would put tree stumps at the edge of the roadway.

**COMMISSIONER TIME**

Commissioner Tobin commented that he hopes a follow up meeting with emergency management and other agencies is scheduled regarding emergency management.

Commissioner Brown commented that we have had two disasters hit the county in the past year and both times the Road Commission was not contacted in a timely manner.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Submitted by:

---

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

---

Scott A. Brown, Chairman