

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, August 3, 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 27, 2011 for \$361,827.87. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Coward-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Brown-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve the July 20, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a) Received Resolution 2011-13 regarding the abandonment and discontinuance of part of Seller's Road of Seller's Pony Farm Annex in Pennfield Township
- b) Received proposals, bid tabulation and bid award recommendation for engineering services for the Calhoun County Trailway, Phase I, Segment I

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MSP State Disaster Fund: Mr. Henning provided the Board with a letter from the Michigan State Police regarding funds that may be available to local governments within Calhoun County for disaster relief. He explained that this would be on a reimbursement basis up to \$30,000 or 10% of the total annual operating budget for each eligible political subdivision. Mr. Henning stated that he would be attending the applicant briefing meeting for governmental entities that is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the W.K. Kellogg Airport. He noted that CCRC has already spent over \$275,000 on storm clean up and is hopeful that a good solution will be found to help residents with the remaining clean up needed. Commissioner Brown asked for clarification on "eligible political subdivision" as referenced in the letter, as he does not believe the Road Commission is a political subdivision. Mr. Henning stated that he would ask the question.

County Millages: Recently, the County Road Association of Michigan conducted a survey with road commissions in Michigan regarding countywide millages. Of the 83 counties in Michigan, 17 have passed a countywide millage for road improvements. Commissioner Vreeland asked if the other counties had appropriations for roads. Mr. Henning responded that many receive general appropriations through the county or townships within a county have passed millages for road improvements. He added that recent legislation now allows general county government to give any excess revenues to road commissions.

Operations: We will soon complete grading and brining on all gravel roads. While we have an excessive amount of service requests for pothole patching and mowing, we are beginning to make some headway. Commissioner Tobin asked if we were using the boom mower to trim bushes on roadsides. Mr. Henning responded no, because we typically run the boom mower in the late fall.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Virgil Hanson, Burlington Township resident, commented that the roads in Burlington Township are the worst in the county and roads in Calhoun County are the worst in Michigan. He stated that R Drive South from 7 ½ to 8 ½ Mile Road is especially bad. Mr. Hanson asked why roads in the surrounding counties are in better shape than Calhoun and asked how we can make them better. He stated that sometimes he sees roads where only some of the holes have been patched. Mr. Hanson also asked about the role of the Board with regards to operations, oversight, and direct involvement. Discussion took place on why roads have multiple road names.

Commissioner Brown responded that many years ago, Commissioners traveled roads and gave orders to Supervisors; however, that is no longer the case. The current Board of Road Commissioners sets policy on operations, oversees finances, and hires and evaluates the Managing Director. Discussion took place on areas included in the Managing Director evaluation. Commissioner Brown informed Mr. Hanson that there has been no increase in funding for roads since 1997; however, costs have risen over 200%. Mr. Henning stated that with regards to R Drive South, this is a local road that requires a local match of 50% from the township for road improvements beyond general maintenance. He added that Burlington Township has not had any local road projects for several years. Commissioner Coward suggested to Mr. Hanson that he call in service requests to our office and follow up with us if the work is not completed in a timely manner. Commissioner Vreeland thanked Mr. Hanson for attending the meeting to voice his concerns and ask questions.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioner Vreeland suggested that Mr. Henning contact the EMHSD's Financial Officer to find out if CCRC qualifies as a political subdivision for the disaster relief funds. He commented that any funding that may be received should be spent on debris clean up from this point forward rather than reimbursement for costs already incurred. Commissioner Vreeland reiterated that CCRC never made any promises to clean up roadsides and had not been contacted regarding Unified Command until several days after the storm occurred. He urged the general public to contact their County Commissioner and Representative Bolger's office regarding funding for storm debris clean up.

Commissioner Coward asked for background on the abandonment correspondence. Mr. Henning stated that we received a petition signed by all property owners, as well as a survey, for this portion of right-of-way on Seller's Road that was never developed.

Commissioner Tobin asked for more information on surrounding counties and townships that have millages or receive county general funds for road improvements. He asked if a follow up meeting had been scheduled regarding emergency management and the Unified Command. Mr. Henning replied that he has not heard anything and has not pushed for it, as it was originally brought up by Commissioner Camp. Commissioner Tobin asked if Commissioners were invited to attend the August 9th meeting. Mr. Henning replied yes.

Commissioner Coward stated that there would be a captive audience at the August 9th meeting on disaster relief funds as county, city and township officials were invited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Scott A. Brown, Chairman