

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

PRESENT: Commissioner Hugh Coward, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Eric Johnson, Member – via telephone
Commissioner Eric Tobin, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ABSENT: Commissioner Scott Brown, Chairman – excused

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
Angela Kline, Engineer
Jill Forshey, Finance Clerk
General Public

Vice Chairman Hugh Coward called the regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners to order at 5:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Tobin to approve the Claims Payable Listing ending August 25, 2011 for \$1,100,745.19. Roll call vote: Tobin-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Coward-Yes; Johnson-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Tobin and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve the August 15, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brush Chipper Bid: Mr. Henning noted that we recently advertised for a 15" brush chipper and the bid package and bid tabulation sheet was provided to the Board. Three bids were received: two from Bandit Industries, Inc. who bid two different sizes, and one from Vermeer of Michigan. He will be asking the Board to award the bid at the September 21st meeting.

MTF: Mr. Henning also provided information to the Board regarding the impact of the census on the MTF. The State has calculated how the population moving out of the state is impacting the Michigan Transportation Funds distribution to all recipients. Calhoun County experienced a change in population of just under ½ of 1% which equates to approximately \$36,000 in funding. Mr. Henning noted that the State is rolling out a new Act 51 reporting system, where we will be required to report our expenses on an annual basis. He added that this new system should make information sharing and access easier. Mr. Henning noted that he would be taking part in the web-based training and would keep the Board updated on this new system.

Commissioner Vreeland asked if we are continuing the downward trend in funding since the gas tax was increased back in 1997. Mr. Henning replied yes, as funding is currently down approximately 4 ½%. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Vreeland asked for an update on funding for storm debris clean up. Mr. Henning explained that the State Legislature has made available \$250,000; however, the Road Commission is not eligible to apply for these funds as we are not a political subdivision. The County has applied for funds, up to \$30,000, for reimbursement. The application is currently under review. Mr. Henning noted that CCRC spent approximately \$300,000 on storm clean up. Discussion continued. Commissioner Vreeland added that even if we received the \$30,000 reimbursement, we would still be out \$270,000 that could have been spent on road maintenance and construction projects. Mr. Henning added that we fell behind on road maintenance because we spent the entire month of June on storm clean up.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Joe Bramble, Convis Township resident, asked why CCRC stopped the shoulder work on 15 Mile Road at Convis Township Hall. Mr. Henning replied that we would be continuing shoulder work to the north. Mr. Bramble commented that the shoulder work done so far looks good.

Mr. Bob Overley, Marshall Planning Commission and Marshal Area Ambulance Authority, asked what roads are left to be done by Enbridge. He noted that there are about 7 miles total of roads that he believes Enbridge is responsible for damaging. Mr. Henning stated that Enbridge is mitigating approximately 22 miles of roads that they used for hauling and detour routes and is spending about 2.9 million dollars on our roads. He informed Mr. Overley that he would be happy to go over the list of roads with him after the meeting.

Ms. Linda Morrison, 13991 15 Mile Road, thanked Commissioner Vreeland and CCRC Engineer Angela Kline for their understanding of the 15 Mile Road residents who are concerned with the repaving project on 15 Mile Road between Michigan Avenue and Verona Road. She added that residents were not aware of the project until just prior to the start date. While she understands that public comment was solicited back in 2009, she asked if in the future, residents could be notified about road projects prior to project start up so that their input could be considered. Many residents are distressed about the large amount of tree removal. Ms. Morrison stated that she had a list of questions and asked if Mr. Henning would respond by email.

Commissioner Coward encouraged citizens to contact Commissioners and CCRC staff outside of meetings for more lengthy discussions.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioner Tobin commented that it may be a good idea to describe the process we follow for public notice on projects such as 15 Mile Road.

Commissioner Vreeland reiterated his distress at the lack of interest by the County to come up with a plan for storm debris clean up and also the lack of communication by Unified Command, as the Road Commission was not included until much later in the week after the storm.

Commissioner Johnson apologized for not being physically present at the meeting.

Commissioner Coward echoed Commissioner Vreeland's sentiments regarding storm clean up, and asked Mr. Henning if the meeting regarding this was still on for tomorrow. Mr. Henning replied that it has been moved to next week due to scheduling conflicts with Emmett Township Supervisor Pat Dougherty.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no additional business before the Board, Vice Chairman Coward adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Hugh T. Coward, Vice Chairman