

Metamora Township

504 015 014498 Dust Control, Various Local Road, Road Maintenance, Up to 2 Applications with and optional third Estimated Cost: \$33,713.04

504 015 014499 Roadside Mowing, Various Local Roads, To be performed by Jostock, One Single Swath Estimated Cost: \$3,330.00

Rich Township

504 018 014700 Brush Mowing Various Locations in Township Estimated Cost: \$5,890.00

Village of Clifford

505 000 019127 Traffic Counts – Various Local Roads Estimated Cost: \$225.00

Roll Call: Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye; Suma, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Meetings Attended:

Mr. Duckert reported that he attended the Blue Water Highway Council Meeting. Mr. Duckert also reported that he attended the M-53 Corridor Meeting. Mr. Duckert reported that the Belle River closure and the detour for the M-53 traffic were discussed.

Mr. Suma reported that he also had attended the Blue Water Highway Council Meeting. Mr. Suma reported that the majority of the meeting was regarding the decline in property tax revenue, which really doesn't pertain to Lapeer's Road Commission revenue as very few Townships in Lapeer County have road millages.

Mr. Suma reported that he also attended the M-53 Corridor Meeting, and a meeting at Hadley Township on April 29th to discuss the tree removal project. Mr. Suma reported that he had also attended the Fix Our Roads meeting on May 4th, 2010 in Lansing. Mr. Suma reported that the meeting was very well attended and he had the opportunity to meet with Representative Daley, and four other State Representatives regarding increasing the funding for roads. Mr. Suma stated that he feels that some discussions are now taking place, and hopefully something can get done to get a funding increase passed.

Managing Director Report

Mr. Pearson reported that the road crews have begun working the construction season, four 10-hour days. Mr. Pearson reported that a crew has begun the centerline repairs on I-69 between Lake Pleasant Road and M-53. Mr. Pearson also reported that the last new pick-up ordered had been delivered. Mr. Pearson reported that all of the back up salt required to be ordered, had been delivered. Mr. Pearson reported that the bridge repairs to the bridge on Dryden Road were completed. Mr. Pearson stated that these repairs had to be done prior to the State closing M-53, as the traffic will be detoured down Dryden Road. Mr. Pearson reported that the crews have begun hauling limestone on three primary roads. These projects include Five Lakes Road between Bowers and Imlay City Road, Five Lakes Road between Daley and Haines Roads, and Cyclone between Klam and Otter Lake Road. Mr. Pearson stated that he will review the budget later in the summer and see if there are any available funds to add some more limestone spreading projects.

Mr. Pearson reported that there had been a serious accident on I-69 in St. Clair County. Mr. Pearson stated that a Road Commission tandem truck pulling an arrow board had been hit by a Canadian garbage hauler. Mr. Pearson stated that the Road Commission employee was injured, but it appears he will recover. Mr. Pearson reported that the Canadian driver got out of his vehicle and took off on foot, heading for the lane of traffic on the opposite side. Mr. Pearson stated that other Road Commission employees tackled the driver and held him until police arrived. Mr. Pearson stated that this is the third serious accident involving a garbage hauler in recent months.

Engineering Report:

Mr. Meinz asked the Board to approve the MDOT Contract for Imlay City Road from Mitchell Lake Road to the Imlay City Limits.

050510-050

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the MDOT Contract for Imlay City Road from Mitchell Lake Road to the Imlay City Limits.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Meinz asked the Board to approve TCO#1(04)2010 to close the Castle Road Bridge between Jones and Jefferson Roads. Mr. Meinz reported that during inspection of this bridge, a lot of deterioration had taken place, and the bridge was no longer safe for any type of traffic. Mr. Meinz also reported that this bridge is slated to be replaced in 2011.

050510-051

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert in accordance with the Engineer's recommendation, that the Castle Road Bridge over N. Br. Flint River between Jones Road and Jefferson Road in Burlington Township be posted as CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC. This TCO rescinds TCO #02(04)2009.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Meinz asked the Board to rescind TCO #1(01)2005 and approve TCO#1(01)2010, which will change the starting point of the 20 Ton Weight Limit on Kidder Road from the Village Limits to the Drakeshire subdivision. Mr. Meinz stated that there is currently a discussion with the Village of Almont to take this section of Kidder as it connects the Village Limits to the Drakeshire subdivision, which is already part of the Village.

050510-052

Motion by Mr. Duckert seconded by Mr. Suma to rescind TCO#1(01)2005 to begin the 20 Ton weight limit on Kidder Road at the Village of Almont's limits.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

050510-053

Motion by Mr. Duckert seconded by Mr. Suma in accordance with the Engineer's recommendation, that Hough Road between M-53 and Kidder Road and Kidder Road between Hough Road and Drakeshire Subdivision be posted as "20 Ton Weight Limit".

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Doyle asked the Board to approve the proposed revisions to the existing Tree Removal Policy. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like the following added:

On federal projects, notification shall be sent to affected property owners upon completion of preliminary survey evaluation.

Variations may be approved at request of the property owner and at the discretion of the Board of Road Commissioners.

On all such above projects, the Lapeer County Road Commission will attempt to notify all property owners affected by the cutting, as well as the Township, a **minimum of sixty (60) days** prior to the tree removals. Mr. Doyle stated by adding the notification time limits, he feels that there is plenty of time to work out any issues or problems prior to submitting the final plans.

050510-054

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the amended Tree Removal Policy.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried

Mr. Doyle asked the Board to approve the 2010 HRRR Project Tree Recommendations. Mr. Doyle stated that the residents of Pratt Road had marked 16 trees and the Osage Orange Tree Row that they wanted exempt from the tree-cutting portion of this project. Mr. Doyle stated that he found a way to save all except 6 of the trees. Mr. Doyle's proposed recommendations are as follows:

Pratt Road

- Tree 1 – Save with Township funded curbing
- Tree 2 – Remove Rocks in ROW, Trees Saved
- Tree 3 – Save with Township funded curbing
- Tree 4 – Save
- Trees 5, 6, and 7 To be cut
- Tree 8 and 9 – Save
- Tree 10 – Cut
- Tree 11 and 12 – Save
- Tree 13 – Cut
- Tree 14 – Save with Guardrail (320')
- Tree 15 – Cut
- Tree 16 – Save
- Osage Orange Tree Row – Leave east 175' (Bank), add Guardrail (440')

Hadley Road

- At 1053 – Cut
- At 1370 – Cut Closest Tree, Save Tree Farther Away
- At 1384 – Cut Tree, Leave Pillars
- At 1419 – Pillars Moved, 1 Tree to Stay, others to be removed
- At 1423 – Plan calls for guardrail
- At 1570 – Cut

Burnside Road

- At 44 W. – Leave Small Pine – Recommend moving – Cut Large Pine
- At 50 W. – Cut
- At 392 W. – Cut
- At 470 W. - Cut

Mr. Hodge stated that before they approve the amendment to the project, he would like to thank the residents for keeping him informed of the progress of this revision. Mr. Hodge stated that he would also like to thank Ryan and Rick for all of their hard work on revising this project. Mr. Hodge inquired about the starting date of the project. Mr. Doyle stated that he would be walking the projects with the contractor the end of next week. Mr. Doyle stated that the contractor would be starting on Burnside Road as it has a lower traffic volume and then move to the other locations. Mr. Hodge stated that he would like to encourage the Board and staff to continue to work with residents on scheduled projects so that as many of their concerns could be addressed as possible.

050510-055

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to approve the 2010 HRRR Project Tree Recommendations as presented.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried

Mr. Suma stated that he was happy that a resolution was worked out. Mr. Duckert stated that he had driven the project areas and felt that this will get the large trees out of the way. Mr. Suma stated that he liked that they were able to save a good portion of the Osage Orange Trees with the guardrail. Mr. Hodge stated that this process was truly democracy in action. Mr. Hodge stated that he was glad the residents voiced their concerns, and made sure that they were heard. Mr. Hodge stated that he had learned a valuable lesson during this process, and while the Road Commissioners seldom receive input from the residents, that sometimes it is good to be reminded that as elected officials we work for you. Mr. Hodge stated that he really appreciated all of the efforts of the residents. Mr. Hodge stated that he would like to thank Mr. Doyle, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Brandt and Mr. Hartwig for all of their hard work to pull this all together.

Mr. Mainz presented to the Board and public present some information regarding the petition to classify a section of Burnside Road as a natural beauty road. Mr. Mainz discussed the timeline of events regarding the petition. Mr. Mainz stated that one of the main criteria for qualifying as a natural beauty road is that the area must have outstanding features along the road, which singly or in combination set this road apart from other roads as being unique. Mr. Mainz stated that this condition does not exist on this road. Mr. Mainz stated that one of the other criteria is that there should be little or no development along this road. Mr. Mainz stated that there are a number of homes and developments in this area. Mr. Mainz also stated that it is recommended that the speed limit along a natural beauty road be not more than 35 mph on paved roads, and 25 mph on gravel. Mr. Mainz stated the lower speed limits are to allow the public to travel slowly and enjoy the road. Mr. Mainz stated with a traffic count of 700 cars a day, it would be very difficult to lower the speed limit to this level.

Mr. Mainz asked the Board to render a decision on this petition to make this section of Burnside Road a natural beauty road.

050510-056

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to deny the petition to classify Burnside Road from M-24 to Oliver Road as a Natural Beauty Road.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried

Public Comment:

Mr. Richard Brandt, Hadley Township Trustee

Mr. Brandt stated that he would really like to thank the Board for saving the trees. Mr. Brandt stated that he would also like to thank Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Pearson for all of their hard work to make this happen. Mr. Brandt stated that he agreed with Mr. Hodge, that democracy does work, and that it's important to listen to the people.

Mr. Mark Polk, 5551 Pratt Road

Mr. Polk stated that he would also like to thank the Board and Staff for all that they have done.

Mr. Louis Swift, 1053 Hadley and 1423 Hadley

Mr. Swift stated that he would also like to thank the Board for looking at his section and saving his hickory tree. Mr. Swift stated that he still believes that this is just pork money and should be used to repair the roads and not destroy people's property. Mr. Swift stated that he has one section of trees that is 25 yards away from a dead end stop sign on a wetland, and it doesn't make sense to cut those trees. Mr. Swift stated that this is just a waste of good tax dollars. Mr. Swift stated that he does appreciate all of the people and the hard work that they put into this project. Mr. Swift stated that Oregon Road is so rough that it rattles his fillings right out of his mouth every time he drives it.

Mr. Michael Boskee, Elba Township Supervisor

Mr. Boskee stated that he would like to "piggy back" on Mr. Swift's comments. Mr. Boskee also stated that he would like some information regarding how these projects are selected. Mr. Pearson stated that we would be happy to provide him with that information.

Mr. Richard Smith, 1419 Hadley Road

Mr. Smith stated that there is a large Oak Tree on the property next to his. Mr. Smith asked how he could get this wood, as he has been unable to contact this neighbor. Mr. Doyle instructed Mr. Smith to check with the contractor when he is on site.

Ms. Sue Dziczek, 1419 Hadley Road

Ms. Dziczek stated that there is a large stately Oak Tree that is at the top of the hill scheduled to be cut. Ms. Dziczek asked if there was any way Mr. Doyle could look at this tree and see if it can be saved as some of the others were. Ms. Sue Miller stated that she would continue to try to get a hold of the property owner. Mr. Doyle stated that if they would give him the exact address or location, he would be happy to look at the site of the Oak Tree.

Mr. Robert Hartwig, Hadley Township Trustee

Mr. Hartwig stated that he would like to suggest to everyone present that if they are interested in keeping the wood from the trees on their property, to share this information, and to possibly put up signs stating this. Mr. Hartwig cautioned that this project has been highly publicized and people are grabbing wood wherever they can get away with it. Deputy Orrie Smith stated that they have made a few arrests of people stealing other people's wood. Deputy Smith stated that this is theft, and if this occurs, the residents should call the police.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Suma stated he just attended a meeting with legislatures to try to get a gas tax increase to fund repairs to our roads. Mr. Suma stated that with our revenues declining and costs going up, there just isn't enough money to go around. Mr. Suma stated that this is one reason he is in favor of the safety projects and cutting trees. Mr. Suma stated that at some point in the future the trees would need to be cut, trimmed or removed from the roadways when they fall. Mr. Suma stated that at that point it would cost the Road Commission money to perform those duties. Mr. Suma stated that if the trees are removed utilizing grant funding, then there would never be another cost associated with them, or an accident risk from these trees.

Mr. Gary Roy, County Commissioner, District 3

Mr. Roy stated that with the decrease in the property taxes for this year, the County will be cutting an additional \$211,000.00 from it's 2011 budget. Mr. Roy also stated that the County is currently working on a 2 year budget, and they are predicting that they will need to reduce the 2012 budget by \$1,200,000.00 Mr. Roy stated that obviously all appropriations to departments will need to be cut further. Mr. Roy stated that they are estimating a need to reduce the County Bridge Fund allocation by approximately \$30,000.00 for 2011.

Deputy Orrie Smith, Weighmaster

Mr. Smith stated that he has been doing a lot of patrolling on I-69 with the construction underway once again, and with traffic traveling onto the side roads. Mr. Smith stated that there were 3 accidents in 3 days at the bottleneck of I-69 and M-24. Mr. Smith reported that they have written a lot of tickets, with the average speed in the construction zone being 65 – 69 mph. Mr. Smith reported that he had also investigated the damage to the signs and barricades that had been placed to close the Castle Road bridge. Mr. Smith stated that the damage was caused by the same individuals that had broken into the elderly gentleman’s house. Mr. Smith stated that those individuals were now in jail, and the Road Commission should expect to be reimbursed for the damages.

050510-057

Motion by Mr. Suma seconded by Mr. Duckert to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Roll Call: Suma, aye; Duckert, aye; Hodge, aye. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Douglas Hodge, Chairman

Linette Daily, Board Secretary