

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

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FROM THE ENGINEER

Former County Commissioner Lowell Henry passed away on August 26 at the age of 93. Lowell was County Commissioner when the current county road system was established. He said prior to that time there didn't seem to be rhyme or reason to which roads were county and which ones were townships. He did say that there seemed to be a lot of county roads in the vicinity of where County Commissioners lived! The system was revised so everyone in the county lived within a certain distance of a county road. Although some changes have been made, this system remains basically intact today. He also said he voted for sanitary sewers in Ballville Township. He said he thought it cost him his job, but he thought it was the right thing to do. I believe time has proven him right. I like to think Lowell and I became good friends over the years and I will miss his advice and his stories. May he rest in peace.

A few of us have been working on an equipment replacement schedule, especially for the next three years. Pickup trucks, the excavator, mowing tractors and mowers, sewer jet, and mini excavator are a few of the pieces that have been mentioned. If anyone has other ideas or knows of things that may have been overlooked or should be added, please let myself, Chad, or the mechanics know.

We have recently received two new pieces of equipment—a tandem snowplow and a new tar buggy. The tandem was displayed at the fair and is the first one with a stainless steel dump body. A second one should be following soon. The berm box is being attached to this one. The tar buggy replaces the one demolished while being used by York Township. It is my understanding that their insurance will cover this. Also, everyone who borrows our equipment in the future will have to sign a form indicating they have sufficient insurance to cover damage.

I attended a Terra State Community College board meeting on August 28th. It would appear they are hedging on their new entrance due to a lack of funds. I am not sure what will be happening in the future at this time.

I attended a CEAO Board meeting on September 4th to learn more about a State program for replacing county bridges. Although the report was sketching, enough is known that I doubt very much that Sandusky County will benefit from this program. I was hoping it might include a couple of the big bridges that are on our five year plan and then that money could be transferred to paving. It would appear the money is going to go to counties that have bridges far worse than ours. How they will be selected remains to be seen. Does anyone suspect that politics might be involved?

We sent a letter to the Turnpike recently advising them of new more potential slope failures on TR's 74 and 278. The letter also requested advice on replacing the double barrel box on TR 278 which is our responsibility and has been added to our five year plan. We also asked about the schedule for the remaining three on the original list, especially CR 198.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

RY. 247-1.38 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Since the last road report, the bridge crew has been nonstop in preparation for the beams to be set. The east wall was stripped, ground, sealed, and painted. The crew then backfilled both walls, cleaned out the channel, and prepared a pad for the crane. Everything was good to go for Thursday the 5th to set beams. Things went pretty well yesterday during the placing of the beams except one minor hick-up. One of the trucks delivering the beams broke down in route to the bridge. A set back of about a half hour, not too bad. As far as the finished product, the beams fit tight, and it turned out great. After the beams were set, our crew was busy cutting off lift hooks and putting oakum in place, and Mark worked on cleaning more of the channel. This morning the guys are finishing up some backfill and grouting the beams this afternoon. NICE JOB TO ALL INVOLVED!!

IN THE SHOP

Jeff and Andy are staying busy in the shop with mower services and repairs. Jeff has installed the stickers and the radio system in our newest tandem. Andy is busy making repairs to one of the mowers. Our annual vehicle inspection will be coming up soon, so if you know of any repairs needed, please write them up so they get repaired.

SIGN SHOP

Perry has also been busy in the sign shop. He has been putting up info signs for upcoming jobs, barricades for green signs, waterproofing, plus stop sign repairs. He is also putting together another sign list for next year's budget.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Fair tent was cleaned up and put away.
- Mowing continues on the west side of the county.
- Guardrail was repaired on TR 183 bridge.
- Abutments on Tindall Bridge were sealed and painted.
- Areas around town were mowed.
- Driveways and mailboxes were shaved down on CR 181 and Smith Rd. for paving.
- Bridges on CR 181 and Smith Rd. were waterproofed.
- Cleaned building #2 and offices.
- Culvert was replaced on CR 260.
- Tile was repaired on CR 232.