

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 1

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FROM THE ENGINEER

Obviously, the big issue is currently the weather. We certainly have had a wide variation of conditions. On Saturday, December 7, 2013 the temp got up to 50 degrees. The next Saturday we had 5" or so of snow. The following Saturday we had 4" of rain which caused flooding throughout the county. Water was still across 201 on Christmas Day. On New Year's Day, 2014 we had another 3" or so of snow. By Monday, the 6th of January, we got 7" of snow, and the temperature was 14 degrees below zero with high winds. This condition continued into Tuesday due to a "polar vortex". On Wednesday, the wind subsided, and temperatures began to rise. By that time, all roads were covered with hard pack. On Thursday, things began to shape up, but we received another inch or two of snow overnight. Today, Friday, January 10th, the temp is above freezing, and the roads are being slushed off. What a variety in such a short period of time. I, for one, never need to see another "polar vortex"!!

To make matters worse, we have had a lot of truck failures, and not old trucks, but new ones! Both of the 2011's single axles have been down and both 2010's. Two trucks were taken to Nollenbergers by wrecker, and two others are being hauled up on our lowboy. So far, the two 2013's trucks are OK, other than crappy heaters, but there have been problems with their salters. I have lost track of how many other trucks have failed, but all of our spares and 996 have been in service at some point. We have two snowplows with broken windshields waiting to be replaced and a broken windshield in a pickup. Also, the diesel fuel pump froze up temporarily in the bitter cold.

Hats off to our crew for working diligently through all this mess. All your long hours, trouble getting home, trouble getting in, some spending the night here-- your work is truly appreciated!! Job well done!! THANKS A MILLION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tony Miller
Matt Zilles

January 14th
January 23rd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (Years of County Employment)

Jeff Dymond	January 20 th	27 years
Mark Auxter	January 22 nd	35 years
Tony Hartshorn	January 23 rd	2 years
Chad Fisher	January 25 th	15 years

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

INCOME COMPARISON (License, Permissive, Gas Tax)

January – December

2013	\$4,247,554
2012	\$4,434,342

PAYCHECKS

- Overtime (20 hrs. or more) is on a separate check.
- Health & Dental insurance increase.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

I guess the big news has been this last winter storm. I know this storm will be one that I remember for a long time. Minus 14 degrees, 25-30 mph winds gusting to 45 mph making it feel like minus 40, and about 6-8 inches of snow. It was cold and miserable to be out. Our team stuck it out to keep roads open as much as possible. I am very proud of everyone for their hard work and patience the last few days. With four trucks going down within a day of each other, it made it very difficult. Somehow, we managed to get by and kept chugging along. Finally, today we are in the mid 30's and the roads are melting great. I am pretty confident by the end of the work day today that our team will have the roads white line to white line. Big hats off to everyone for a job well done.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Some other jobs done in between snow events.
- Pot holes filled where needed.
- A tile was repaired on CR 30.
- Berming was finished up from the high water back in December.
- A 30" tile was repaired on CR 247.

NOTICE

This week was the perfect scenario for us to use the Employee Alert System. It was a quick and easy way to notify all staff in one message of the status of the county facilities. As the system has not been used, until now, with any relative frequency some weaknesses were exposed.

Following are some matters that have been discovered, and as with any computer system, if the data entered is not good than the data coming out of the system is similar. These were common problems.

1. The employee never registered for the notifications. **Every employee** in the county should be signed up. Elected officials, supervisors and department heads please urge your staff to become part of the system! Names and email addresses for those that have not registered can be sent to Theresa Garcia and she will send an invitation via email to unregistered staff so they can join.
2. The employee has only registered to receive emergency messages and not standard messages. If an "FYI" message is sent out and you are not set up for standard messages you will not be contacted. For good measure you should sign up for both types of messages.
3. When setting up your contacts and prioritizing them you cannot skip a priority level. You have to have a priority number 1, 2, 3, etc. Some employees had an email set for priority number 3 and that was it. The system tries number one first, then two and so on. If you do not list sequential priority numbers the system will not contact you.
4. Keep in mind when setting your priorities that if you only have work contact information entered and we need to contact you after hours you will not receive messages. You should have a personal contact listed such as a cell phone, home phone or home email that you check or answer

on a regular basis. Our suggestion is to make your personal cell the #1 priority.

5. The system will continue to contact you until you confirm you received the notice. If you do not confirm it will move to the next contact priority. (There have been instances where the confirmation was made but it was not made prior to the next contact attempt. We are sorting this out.)

To reiterate, the system is only as good as the data entered. Please go to your profile and double check your priority settings and be sure you are signed up on both the emergency/standard message sides. If you are not a member please take the time to join the mass notification system.