

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 18

October 3, 2014

FROM THE ENGINEER

Carlos and I attended an asphalt seminar at Flexible Pavements of Ohio in Columbus on the 25th. Our objective was to see if there is anything we can do to improve the quality of our asphalt. One option would be to revert back to our old specs and take plate samples behind the paver. This was very successful at the time, but things have changed, and I don't think we want to go back to that. We are, however, considering slightly changing the State specs we now use in hopes of achieving better asphalt.

We have until next Friday to advise the State if we want to buy salt from them for this winter. The price will be \$105.25 a ton plus shipping. It is to be delivered to a yet to be determined ODOT facility, and we will be responsible for picking it up there. I attended CEAO's monthly board meeting in Columbus yesterday, and there are a lot of various opinions on how to handle this situation. We have advised all governmental agencies in Sandusky County and are waiting to hear from them before finalizing our plans, but right now it looks like we will be ordering 2,000 tons through ODOT. All this means is that we will have to be conservative with salt usage this year and will definitely have to mix it with stone.

Monday we will be meeting with ODOT officials to see if anything can be done about the SR 590 and CR 41 intersection. It is a mystery why there are so many accidents there. There have been at least two fatalities in recent years. Hopefully something can be done to improve the safety.

I would like to thank all our employees for supporting the Randolph family. In a situation like this, it's hard to know what the right thing to do is, but I believe what we've done is appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mark Auxter

October 4th

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

OPERS (Ohio Public Employees Retirement System)

If you are considering retiring within the next FOUR years, it's important to be aware of the following changes to OPERS Health Care Plan and the impact they can have on your decision to retire.

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE OPERS HEALTH CARE PLAN WILL GO INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2015.

New eligibility rules:

Members will be required to have at least **20 years** of qualifying service **and** be at least **60 years old** to qualify for health care or have 30 years of qualifying service at any age. This means that eligible members have until November to decide whether or not to retire under the "current eligibility rule" of 10 years of service.

Members must **not** be on their employer's payroll later than November 30, 2014, in order to qualify for OPERS retiree health care with 10 years of service, because the retirement effective date must be no later than December 1, 2014.

BUDGET

Jim and I are working on the 2015 budget; if you know of something that needs replaced, repaired...let Chad know. If you are considering retiring in 2015, please let me know by October 30th.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The month of November is open enrollment. During this open enrollment period, an employee and their eligible dependents may elect coverage or change coverage. Please let me know if you would like to make any changes to your current plan by November 14th.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ENROLLMENT

Flexible Spending Account open enrollment is in December. If you are interested in enrolling or would like information, let me know.

GUARDIAN LIFE AND DENTAL

Sandusky County offers dental and life insurance through Guardian. Open enrollment is in December; if you are interested in enrolling or would like information, let me know.

INCOME COMPARISON

(License, Permissive, Gas Tax)

January-August

2014 \$2,838,237

2013 \$2,825,700

FROM THE ASSISTANT ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

BRIDGES and ROADS

On the RY 226 Bridge job, the footer and wall were completed on the south side. Next on the list, we plan to set the beams and do the cleanup work.

For the CR 41 Bridge, beams were set and endcaps were built. Cleanup work will continue.

The TR 244 Bridge has been opened.

Dirt and cleanup work was performed on CR 41 and CR 268. Also, grass seed was placed on CR 268.

The Limerick Rd. and CR 175 intersection was widened and paved on the north side of the intersection.

SHOP

Jeff ordered new wheel steps to be carried in trucks. Plow drivers can stand on them to clean snow and ice off of the windshields.

SIGN SHOP

Perry has been busy with the county sign relocation project.