

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 3

February 12, 2010

FROM ENGINEER

First I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in keeping the roads open and in good shape during the recent snow storms. With the wind we've had, I don't know how anyone can accurately measure snow fall, but in my mind we've got somewhere in the neighborhood of 15" of snow. THANKS for job well done!!!!!! We're really operating on a skeleton crew, so it was great no one missed work. Keep up the good work!!

I am preparing for the meeting with Turnpike on February 22nd. It'll be interesting to see who shows up at this meeting. So far our State Senator Karen Gillmor and State Senator Thomas Patton are attending on our behalf. Senator Gillmor continues to fight hard on our behalf. Senator Patton is chair of the Senate Finance Committee and is also a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission. The Senate's legal counsel may also attend. Fred Pausch, the new Executive Director of the County Engineer's Association also plans on attending. From Sandusky County it will be Commissioner Dan Polter, Kim Foreman and I.

In other news, the two new tandems are in and we will be taking bids for the boxes, snowplows, salters, hydraulics, etc. hopefully sometime in March. We are also investigating taking bids on upgrading the air conditioning and air handling systems in the office. We will probably bid paving CR's 57 and 232 at the same time.

As of yesterday, the crane in the new shop is now functional and 99.9% of the electrical work is complete. The plumbers are supposed to be back next week to complete their punch list. Moving into the shop has been slowed by snow, but some progress has been made. The new work benches look great and should last a hundred years or so!

On the downside, our income for January was down 2.4% from last January. Here are the numbers compared to last year.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
License tax	\$132,226	\$124,530
Permissive tax	13,455	13,790
Gas tax	<u>193,482</u>	<u>192,547</u>
Totals	\$339,163	\$330,867

Have a nice long weekend and, unless you're tired of living, you better remember Valentine's Day!

CLOSED

This office will be closed Monday, February 15th in observance of President's Day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cody Amor	February 22 nd
Dave Beeker	February 24 th
Perry Hill	February 8 th
Jenna Timmons	February 4 th
Eric Wheatley	January 30 th

VALENTINE'S DAY

Don't forget your sweetie on Sunday, February 14th!

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Well this second half of the winter has been harder on us than the first half was. The good part of that is it's the "SECOND HALF". No one is for sure how much snow we actually got over the last week but winter can stop anytime! It doesn't sound good for over this much needed 3 day weekend. The wind is what is really going to hurt us if it picks up like the weather men say. Not that they have ever been wrong, let's hope the magic wand swoops in and grants it to be still.

The new building is coming along slowly due to the weather but we are getting there. The crane is now able to be used, and the shelving is about finished in the parts room and the little tool room. Benches are being fabricated to accommodate the shop needs and everything is taking its place as we work and learn what should go where.

In building #2 the basement is finished being painted and the upstairs is in the process of being painted. So far it looks really good. The guys also built platforms for the filing cabinets to sit on in the basement.

As for on the road....

The brush crew finished up on their long project of Christy Road and started on the town route. #9 stone was hauled in to replenish the supply. Ed was sent out on pothole patrol. Some guardrail was replaced. Mark worked on cleaning a ditch on 41 and Perry worked on fixing various mailboxes around the county.

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 2

January 15, 2010

FROM ENGINEER

Thanks to break in the weather, we have been able to start moving in to the new building. I am sure as we begin to use it, we'll find minor things that need to be done. Be sure to report these to myself or Duane so we can get them taken care of. When deciding if something is serious enough to report, keep in mind that we need to hold ourselves to the same standard on our own work that we expect the contractors to conform to on theirs. Next Friday, January 22, the architect will be here to make his inspection also.

We have finally got an appointment with the Ohio Turnpike Commission. It will be on Tuesday, January 26 at 1 PM at their headquarters in Berea. I am not sure who all will be attending, but it has been suggested we keep our contingent relatively small. Who knows what will transpire, but I hope they come up with something so repairs can be made.

Next Thursday and Friday I plan on attending the annual county engineer's conference in Columbus. Dean Silva will be attending the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO) conference in Cincinnati on February 11 and 12. Hopefully we will both pick up some continuing professional development hours that we need to maintain our licenses.

One issue is parking. Theoretically there is room for another row of cars between the new building and the old garage. I am not so sure how well this would really work out. So I would suggest that everybody find their favorite spot and see how it works out. As a matter of courtesy, we should let the women pick their spots first.

Our sympathy goes out to Dean and Duane and their families on the loss of their brother.

ANNIVERSARY

(YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYEMENT)

Mark Auxter	January 22 nd	31 years
Jeff Dymond	January 20 th	23 years
Chad Fisher	January 25 th	11 years

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Just like any other January we have spent most of our time out cleaning the roads, but it sounds like our January thaw is going to last awhile. We were able to get other misc. things done.

- Brush was cut on Christy
- Sidewalks on Ballville Bridge were cleaned off.
- Basement walls were painted before the contractor waxed the floors.
- Shelves are being put together for the parts room.
- Pedestals were built and are being painted for file cabinets in the basement.
- Bldg. #9 stone was hauled in & mixed with salt.
- Tables, desks, chairs, & etc. are being moved into bldg. #11
- Paper towel holders are being installed.
- The ice maker & refrigerator were delivered, and we hooked up a in-line water filter and did some modifications on the ice machine.
- Mail boxes & signs were repaired as time allowed.
- Trucks were repaired as needed.

Now that we are in the new building lets all do our part in keeping it clean and presentable.

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 1

January 4, 2010

FROM ENGINEER

As you know, the Road Report doubles as our annual report. So although all significant events and projects have been covered at some point or another, here is a recap of some of the highlights from 2009.

- January 28 8" of snow!
- February 10 Temp. nearly hit 60 degrees
- March 24 Bid paving for CR 65, CR 213, Pavement Marking and new building
- March 30 Work began on new Fremont reservoir
- May 6 Bridge on CR 268 started
- May 11 New building officially underway with pile driving
- May 27 5" of rain!
- June 10 Received new total station
- July 6 Bridge over Mud Creek started on CR 106
- July 15 CR 268 bridge opened
- August 24 First steel set on new building
- October 2 CR 106 bridge opened
- October 15 Meeting with the Ohio Turnpike Commission
- December 17 New generator fired up
- December 31 Building substantially completed

In personnel, Andy Brough and Chad Bender started on February 1st and Pat Cleveland retired on September 30th.

Looking ahead to 2010... two new tandems have been ordered, CR's 57 and 232 are scheduled for paving and we will be moving into the new building. We will also have remodeling, rearranging and painting to do as a result of the new building. We also plan to improve the ventilating system in the office. We also have other work

planned, but 2010 will be the year of "show me the money". Our income is on a decline and there is no way of telling how long or how far this will go. So, unlike in the past when we were reasonably confident in our income, now we have to see the money first before proceeding with any major projects, such as the TR 222 bridge over Bark Creek.

Overall we are very fortunate. Our roads, bridges, equipment, buildings and grounds are all in good shape. We are in a good position to weather a storm.

I believe 2009 was the first year where there were no raises for employees since I have been engineer. Although that is unfortunate, we don't have to look too far to see layoffs, pay reductions and furloughs. I think we are fortunate to have good jobs with benefits including good health insurance and retirement. For 2010, if income reaches our prediction, there should be raises.

The Good Lord willing, I will have served as Sandusky County Engineer for 25 years this Thursday. A lot of improvements have been made in that time. I would like to sincerely thank all past and present employees for their hard work and dedication that made this possible. It has truly been a team effort.
THANKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jimmy Sanford January 7th

ANNIVERSARY

(YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)

Cody Amor	January 3 rd	5 years
Steve Fisher	January 2 nd	31 years
Kim Foreman	January 3 rd	10 years
Jim Moyer	January 7 th	25 years
Steve Pfeiffer	January 5 th	5 years

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Well HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone hopefully it's a great one! We get to start off 2010 with slowly moving into our new building, it sure will be nice to start the New Year nice and organized!

This winter hasn't started off as bad as last year I would take snow over ice any day! But the New Year didn't give us a break we did go out New Years Day for slippery roads.

We haven't done too much the last few weeks due to the holiday and having shorter weeks along with snow and ice control. Most of what we did was right here in the yard.

- Jimmy, Jan, and Dean cleaned up and moved some of the equipment that will be making the move to the new shop with us.
- Cody and Tim helped run phone wire to all the buildings.
- Mark, Tim, and Jan hauled #9's to mix with the salt.
- The ceiling and wall facing what is soon to be the old shop in the wash bay was painted.

The Brush Crew did go out and work on Christy Road and it looks very nice good job to everyone that has worked on it!