

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 4

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FROM THE ENGINEER

Well, once again, weather is the big news. We have had several major storms this year (Groundhog's Day, the Saturday Surprise, and President's Day to mention a few) that would have been the biggest received in many past winters and now today! Hopefully this will pass quickly and we will be enjoying better weather soon. In the meantime, enjoy it! This will be the winter we'll look back on tell stories about. Thanks to everyone for your hard work and dedication. It is appreciated. It's impossible to know how many accidents and injuries have been avoided by your efforts. THANKS!!!!!!

Incidentally, Level 3's don't mean much to our employees, including the office. It's not fair the some people might be working and other employees are paid for staying home at the same time. This is another one of those things they forget to tell us about when we were hired, but that's the way it is.

After several years of working without anything to show for it, it appears we are making some progress on the Turnpike situation. We were well received by the House Transportation Committee last week. We have also got the story out to other key people, namely Lt. Governor Mary Taylor who has now seen the short version of our video and seems sympathetic to our cause. The Turnpike will be testifying on Wednesday, March 2nd. We plan on attending and have supplied plenty of background information and which they could be questioned. Although she hasn't received any public attention, our State Senator Karen Gillmor is quietly working behind the scene on our behalf.

The new office heating/ventilating control system still has some bugs to be worked out. The contractors should be back next week for that.

We have received a grant to upgrade our road signs. The total project is estimated at \$52,000 and we will be receiving an 80% grant for \$41,600. All work will need to be completed by November 1st so I hope Perry will be done plowing snow soon so he can jump on this project.

The SWCD Board held their monthly meeting here on February 17th. We are learning more and more about how ditch maintenance is being managed. It's still too early to predict if it will be returning to us or not. Their next meeting is March 10th and Rich Randolph will be representing us. The rest of us will be attending either a surveying or drainage conference on that day.

We've received word that consideration is being given to putting flashers and gates up at the RR crossings on Stone Street, Hayes and Third Avenues. There will be a meeting on March 18th.

On March 8th we'll be meeting with State officials regarding mowing on CR 259. Evidently we're not doing everything they want us to do to protect the rare orchids found in this area.

In retiree news, our sympathy goes out to Charlie Hensley on the loss of his wife Jennie. We've received word that John Kuzma is having some serious health concerns and we wish him a successful recovery.

If any spouses are still doing snow dances, PLEASE STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ANNIVERSARY
(YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)
Dean Reese March 5th 31yrs

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

First of all, I want to thank everyone for their dedication and hard work this winter. I know I am tired of this winter and everyone I have talked to agrees. We finally had the January thaw in the middle of February. We only had minor flooding and South River Road was only under water for about four hours Friday, but that was enough time to undermine the road where the city put in their water inlet pipe for the reservoir. We had to close the road until the contractor could repair this. It was finally opened up Thursday afternoon. We have paid for the week of nice weather with snow ice and wind. It sounds like after this weekend we might get a break from the snow but heavy rain is in the forecast, you know what that means with all this snow. I heard yesterday that if we get seven more inches of snow this month it will set the record for February.

OTHER MISC JOB

- * Brush was cut on 052 and 102 routes along with branches that came down from the ice.
- * Pot holes were filled.
- * Spot berming was done on 101 & 102 routes along with areas that washed out.
- * Water was drained from the roads.
- * Mark had a couple days that he could work on the CR 13 ditch.
- * Barricades were put up a couple times on South River Rd after traffic blew thru them.
- * Mailboxes and signs have been repaired.
- * The old sign shop is being stripped.
- * Dean and Jeff have been busy keeping trucks running.
- * Andy and Chad make sure the trucks are ready to go when we get here.