

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 20

December 3, 2010

FROM THE ENGINEER

As a result of the bridge collapse in Minneapolis a few years ago, the rules have been tightened on bridge inspection procedures. Each agency responsible for bridge inspections is being audited to be sure everyone is in conformance with the current rules. Our audit was conducted last week by Mark Stockman. Mark used to be the Paulding County Engineer, but now works for the County Engineers Association of Ohio for the specific purposes of auditing each county. His salary is paid by the Federal Government since they are the ones making audits mandatory. Hats off to Tom Morrison, Rick Villarreal and Mark Swartz for a job well done. Thanks to their efforts, we passed with flying colors.

Our budget for next year is finalized. We meet with the Commissioners next Friday (December 10) for final approval. The bottom line for next year is \$5,825,000. This is up from the \$5.2 m. we have been using the last few years. This is due to our income being up slightly, but more importantly, a larger than expected cash carryover. Some of the highlights for next year are two new dump trucks, two 4WD pickups, an enclosed trailer for snow fence and a small equipment trailer. There is \$1 million in the road contracts account. Some roads for paving might be 2, 11, 58, 107 and 117. The roads for seal coating have yet to be determined. These may not be the roads we really want to pave, but they're the ones that qualify for various grants. Under bridges we plan to build two by force account (128 and 211), have a contract for replacing various culverts, another one for repairing the State Street Bridge and maybe a small gunite contract. We have nine employees eligible for retirement. There is nearly \$350,000 set aside in the budget to pay these people their accumulated sick leave and vacation pay that they are entitled to. All employee related accounts such as labor, health care, retirement, uniforms, etc., total over \$2.4 million. This represents over 40% of the total budget. There was a huge increase in Workman's Compensation. This account went from \$30,000 to over \$100,000.

Our first new employee starts Monday. Carlos Baez comes to us from the City of Oregon. He is a registered professional engineer and is a graduate of Fremont Ross. Matt Reinhart is scheduled

to start January 3rd. Matt is a graduate engineer and formerly worked for a consulting engineering firm in Columbus. I am looking forward to getting these men on board. We should be able to clean up our design backlog and hopefully get ahead a little bit.

We have taken delivery of the used asphalt distributor we bought from the Champaign County Engineer. The distributor part looks real good, much better than we've ever had. The truck however is a 1988 and will soon be obsolete. This is offset by the fact that it won't get many miles on it and we should save a couple of bucks for historical plates.

The Gilmore Bridge is now history. We had the removal of this bridge videotaped. Eventually, this will be on our web site. It can be viewed now at <http://www.digitaldreamsweb.com/gilmorebridge/>. Incidentally, the video about the Turnpike overpasses is on our web site now.

In 2010 we bought 7,535 gallons of gas. Prices ranged from \$2.33 a gallon to \$2.73. We also bought 35,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The low price was \$2.33 and the high price, \$2.60 a gallon.

In regards to land area, Ashtabula County is the largest county in Ohio with 703 square miles. Sandusky County ranks 68th with 409 square miles. The smallest county is Lake with 228 square miles. Wood County has 617 (#5), Seneca 551 (#16), Ottawa 255 (#87), Erie 255 (#86) and Huron 493 (#28).

The Wyandot Indians were the last Indians to leave Ohio. They left in 1843.

ANNIVERSARY (YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)

Tim Below December 6th 11 years
Tim Reed December 6th 11 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan Dorr December 6th

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

2011 Health Insurance

Medical Mutual – SuperMed Plus 15100

Payroll Deduction: 6.5%

Single	\$12.94
Employee/Spouse	\$25.88
Employee/Children	\$24.92
Employee/Spouse/Child	\$30.56
Family	\$37.86

Prescription Drugs – Changing from Medco to Caremark (co pay remains the same).

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

First of all I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. As for the Saturday after all I have to say is wait till November of 2012.

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

Darr road was cleaned up, seeded and mulched. And today a fence was put up to make it safer.

Ba221-3.13 was rip rapped and cleaned up from silt removal.

Ja23-3.74 and Ja41-2.05 culverts were repaired.

The ditch on C.R.32 south of C.R.11 is being cleaned.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The shoulder on C.R.182 was built up north of S.R.523 where the road was slipping.

A sink hole on C.R.13 was repaired.

Eddie ran roads for pot holes.

Mark, Tim R., Jan and Cody ran road inspection and drained water before it froze.

The berm was shaved down on C.R.175 to drain water.

BRUSH

The brush crew has been working on 071's route along with various limbs that blew down.

MOWING

The west side of the county is done. Eddie headed East yesterday with the boom mower.

SIGNS

With only a week before midnights start Chad B. is working with Perry to be refreshed on the boom of the sign truck.

YARD

Tim B. and Dave replaced the metal siding in the wash rack.

Dean, Jeff and Andy have been busy in the shop keeping everything going.

988 and 973 had injectors replaced at Nollenbergers.

Jan made up stands for construction signs.

Just a reminder to Jeff, Andy and Chad B. midnights start December 13th

THINGS OF INTEREST

Fremont Holiday Parade Food Pantry Collection

Where: Starting at Roger Young Park, north on Front St., turning west on Croghan St., ending at Flag Park.

When: December 4th

Time: Begins at 4:00 pm

Bring CANS & CASH, during the parade; Forest Fox & Park District friends will collect donations for the Food Pantry.

For more information call: 419-334-4495

Crafter's Day

Where: Grace Lutheran Church Dining Room, 705 W. State Street

When: Saturday, December 11th

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

For more information call: 402-850-1581

Diamond Rio

Where: Grace Community Church, 900 Smith Road

When: Sunday, December 12th

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$25/\$30

For more information call: 419-332-2623