

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 20

December 13, 2013

FROM THE ENGINEER

On Wednesday, December 4th, I attended a meeting regarding "The Ohio Turnpike Mitigation Program." This is a new program, to address issues created by the existence of Turnpike, for local governments. ODOT (not the Turnpike) will make \$5 m. a year available. All projects must be within one mile of the Turnpike. The meeting was conducted by ODOT Chief of Staff Greg Murphy and Turnpike Executive Director Rick Hodges. They were not specific about what type of projects they are looking for, but noise walls and traffic signals at intersections were mentioned. When asked if this is how they expect future embankment failures to be funded, they were evasive, but I believe this is their intent. There is a rating system to compare and select projects. It would appear local funds will be mandatory to be competitive. We intend to apply for funds to replace the bridge on TR 278 under the overpass embankment. We may also apply for paving the roads used to access the Turnpike service plazas.

Our 2014 Budget has been finalized, submitted and approved by the County Commissioners. Highlights include 26.5 miles of paving, three bridge replacements (four if we get 278), three new pickups and a new excavator. We had about \$350,000 less to work with than in 2013. It sure was a lot more fun to do the budget when our income actually went up slightly every year! Now, instead of additional funds being distributed to all counties, they seem to end up in some type of grant program like the above. Some counties are big winners and others get nothing. For example, under ODOT's recent local bridge replacement program, Morrow County has 29 bridges and Wood County has 18 compared to ZERO for Sandusky County. If this \$40 m. had been distributed equally, each County would have gained \$450,000. Is that fair? I guess if you live in Morrow County it is!

This will be the last edition of the "Road Report" before Christmas, so here's wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

(Years of County Employment)

Carlos Baez	December 6 th	3 years
Tim Below	December 6 th	14 years
Tim Reed	December 6 th	14 years

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

HEALTH INSURANCE

A summary of benefits and coverage (what the plan covers & what it costs) are available in: Chad's office and Ready Room.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (BENNY CARD)

Check the website www.mybenny.com or call 1-877-810-2600 to check your account balance. Remember to submit any outstanding claims or receipts. Any unspent funds will not be carried over, nor will funds be reimbursed to you. Keep your Benny Card; you will use it for 2014.

GUARDIAN LIFE AND DENTAL

Effective January 1, 2014 bi-weekly premiums will increase:

Low Option Plan

Employee - \$12.66
Employee & Spouse - \$28.90
Employee & Children - \$26.45
Family - \$41.79

High Option Plan

Employee - \$13.46
Employee & Spouse - \$30.71
Employee & Children - \$31.83
Family - \$48.13

Guardian does not send ID cards anymore, you have to print them from their web page www.guardiananytime.com; included with Guardian Dental is a Vision Discount Plan.

PAYCHECKS

Due to the Christmas holiday, payroll is due to the Auditor's Office on December 19th—all overtime and sick time between December 19th – 21st will be on Payroll #1 2014.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

With frigid cold air and the forecast of 3-5 inches of snow for the weekend, I guess it's safe to say winter is here. Let's all work together and have safe winter and snow plowing season.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Spot berming is being done around the county.
- Brush Crew is trimming trees and removing dead ash tree on CR 147, 74, 66 and 85.
- CR 182 ditch project was completed.
- CR 308 was crack sealed.
- Ed has finished up with the boom mower on county roads. He is now working on some of the Township requests.
- The side mowers have also finished up mowing the back banks on the east side of the county.
- A large washout was repaired on CR 232.
- Brush and trees were removed and disposed of on TR 244 around the bridge.
- Some drainage tiles are being installed at the CR 244 bridge.
- Snow fence was installed around the county.
- Dirt was hauled to a SR 510 yard and leveled with the dozer.
- Our night shift crew started this week.
- 063 snow plow was prepped and painted.
- Man doors are being installed in building # 1.
- Lean - to on the side of building #3 was repaired with new siding.
- Vehicles and equipment are being washed.
- Plow trucks were out Dec. 9th for freezing rain and Dec. 11th for snow.