

# ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 18

October 5, 2012

## FROM THE ENGINEER

The sandblasting and painting of Tindall Bridge is progressing. The quality control is impressive. The Contractor has a quality control person who watches the temperature, dew point and humidity to make sure all of the conditions are right. He also inspects the work to make sure everything is down to bare metal and that the roughness, after sandblasting, is just right. If it's too deep, the paint won't penetrate. He has mirrors to look at the areas that are not accessible. We also have an inspector who is basically checking the same things. Hopefully it will result in a quality job. What has been blasted (about 25% of the bridge) looks like new steel. Some of what has been blasted has also been primed.

The State Street Bridge is also progressing nicely. They have already had one pour of concrete and should have another one early next week. The gunite operation should start next week too. The City of Fremont is taking advantage of a lane closure to replace some faulty sidewalks.

We have been discussing the asphalt laid on CR 169 with Kokosing Construction. Several solutions have been presented. The latest is that we have offered them two options: remove and replace one complete lane or not be paid for what has been laid, which amounts to about \$16,000.

Our final major project for the year is underway. This is the replacement of a large CMPA (corrugated metal pipe arch). It will be replaced with a concrete box. As far as I know, this will leave only one major corrugated metal pipe and that is on CR 66 south of Route 20. It's still in pretty good shape, so it will be good for a while.

Our OPWC projects have been submitted, rated and assigned county priority points. At this time, we have the potential of getting two projects funded: paving portions of 247, 260 and 268. Another one includes parts of Smith Road, 181 and 198. The competition at the District Level will be very stiff. We'll have to wait and see how we fare.

On Tuesday we bermed TR 118 for Jackson Township. This road is getting a lot of traffic due to SR 53 being closed for bridge work. I have never seen such bad

berms. I was there for the first round of trucks. We found one tail pipe and a cover for a catalytic converter. It's a wonder there wasn't a lot of damage to vehicles. Thanks to our crew for staying over to get the worst areas covered before someone got hurt.

I had almost forgotten that a wind farm is being proposed for the southern portion of York Township. The current plan calls for nine (9) turbines. They will be similar to the ones on Route 6 near Bowling Green, but larger. The proposed wind farm will also extend well into Seneca County where there will be over seventy (70) turbines. They expect to submit the application in January and plan on starting construction in 2014.

## FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

### OPERS

Governor John Kasich signed Substitute Senate Bill 343 into law on September 26, 2012 at the Statehouse during a special ceremony. Though the main components of Sub. SB 343 will take effect on January 7, 2013; certain other aspects of the bill contain specific effective dates beyond January 7, 2013. For a summary of the bill, go to [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org) website; a copy is posted in the ready room.

For those who are contemplating retiring prior to the January 7, 2013 effective date, OPERS needs a valid completed retirement application by the close of business January 4, 2013 if applying using paper forms, or by midnight January 6, 2013 if applying online. In addition, a member must have terminated public employment and be off their employer's payroll by December 31, 2013.

### THANKSGIVING

If you are planning on taking the day after Thanksgiving off, please submit vacation request.

### INCOME COMPARISON

(License, Permissive, Gas Tax)

2012 \$3,204,008  
2011 \$3,191,900

## **BUDGET**

Jim and I are working on the 2013 budget. Anyone considering retiring in 2013, please let me know.

## **FLEXIBLE SPENDING ENROLLMENT**

Flexible Spending Account open enrollment is in December. This plan may (depending on interest) be offered again for 2013. Anyone who is considering signing up, please let me know by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (BENNY CARD)**

Check the website [www.mybenny.com](http://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 2013. When using Benny card remember to select "credit" when asked "credit or debit".

## **GUARDIAN LIFE AND DENTAL**

Sandusky County offers dental and life insurance through Guardian. Open enrollment is in December. Anyone who is interested please let me know by December 5th.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

I attended the BORMA (Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association) meeting on August 28th in Sandusky. The association decided to raise health insurance rates by only 4% for next year. This is great news and so much better than the double digit annual increase we were receiving prior to joining BORMA. Our benefits will remain the same. Caremark's prescription drug list changes are attached. Anyone wanting to make changes to their policy (adding/removing) family members, please let me know by November 30th.

## **FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

### **SC. 10-1.99 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

One more to check off the list. The old wooden structure was replaced with 104' if 60" RCP. On the west end of the job an 8' x 8' catch basin was built for the 60" RCP to make a 90 degree turn to the south. Cleanup was finished last week. Crews this week flooded the stone to prepare for paving. Nice job!!

## **MOWING**

Mowing continues around the county. Crews are getting close to finishing up the last round of mowing for the year. There may be a few areas to go back to and get once the crops are out of the fields. Ed is finishing up the west side of the county with the boom mower. He has been working on the deeper ditches and over passes. In a couple of days he should be moving over to the east side of the county. This year we have received quite a few phone calls from residents around the county complementing us on how good the mowing was. Good job everyone!

## **WO. 42-0.21 CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

After finishing up the culvert on TR 10, the KOB crew has moved into Twp. 42 for our last big project of the year. This job is going to be a challenging one. Railroad tracks, power lines, and power poles are just a few things that will make this job a challenge. Not to mention the new box culvert is going to be 144 ft. long. This week Mark and his crew have removed the old head walls, metal pipe and they are working on sloping the banks back. They are also working on getting the bottom dirt to grade. The new boxes are scheduled to be set on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. I am confident our crew will have everything ready to go for that day. NICE JOB EVERYONE!!

## **ROAD MAINTENANCE**

- Culvert on CR 90 was paved.
- Jobs from the summer were rock hounded, seeded and strawed.
- Guardrail was repaired on CR 117.
- Bridge repairs are being done from inspection list.
- TR 118 was bermed for Jackson Twp.
- CR 201 was bermed from Darr Rd. to Tiffin Rd.
- Offices were cleaned.
- Annual vehicle inspection took place on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **GOVEDEALS.COM**

2, 1998 International Dump Trucks – 1 sold for \$9,020.0 and the other sold for \$14,320.00

1, Portable Air Compressor – sold for \$1,011.00