

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 3

February 10, 2012

FROM THE ENGINEER

I attended the annual County Engineers' Conference on January 26th & 27th in Columbus. This is one of the better conferences I have attended in recent years. RUMA's were mentioned. This stands for Road Use Maintenance Agreement and is being driven by the fracking in northeast Ohio. Evidently they use big trucks with heavy loads in the process and road damage is a serious problem. A standard form is being developed that everyone can use, including us for overweight and oversized loads to make the owner, not the county or township, responsible for repairs.

Salt contamination was also mentioned. Some counties have stored salt outside, uncovered, and as a result have contaminated nearby wells. To be sure we don't get in a similar situation; it will be a good idea to wash down our salt trucks in Building 1 instead of Building 7. The drains in Building 1 go to a sanitary sewer and in Building 7 they go to a storm sewer which empties into Muskellunge Creek.

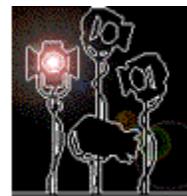
I also became aware of a service to research the crash data on intersections that will help determine what, if any, improvements need to be made. Federal Funds will pay for 90% of the cost of hiring a consultant (TSASS) to analyze about five intersections per year for a three year period. I have been invited to a meeting with ODOT and Terra regarding the Napoleon Road/SR 53 intersection and TSASS has already provided some crash data that will be useful.

I volunteered to be on a committee with county engineers to review what is going on with the Turnpike. The other engineers are from Lucas, Wood and Portage Counties.

I attended the SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) Board meeting on February 2nd. A final decision has not been made where ditch maintenance will ultimately end up. January has been set as a deadline to make the final decision. Sharing resources (personnel and equipment) are the biggest advantages, in my opinion, in bringing ditch maintenance back to our department.

In other news, we have ordered a new loader and two new backhoes. The loader was included in the original plan for 2012, but not the backhoes since the ones we have now are less than two years old. However, Streackers' offered to trade ours in for \$10 per machine hour. By the time the new ones come in, our existing ones will have about 450 hours on them. That means we can trade each one for about \$4,500 or \$9,000 for both. We believe the advantages of having new machines and new warranties are worth that much. Ironically, the estimate for trading loaders was \$60,000 but the actual cost was closer to \$51,000.

The bridge inspection results are now available. We had two #4's (Tindall and 232), seven #5's, thirty-five #6's, seventy-four #7's, one hundred thirty-one #8's and fourteen #9's. The rating on the 232 bridge should go up once we replace the beams later this year & Tindall may also go up once we make the structural improvements and paint it. All this should be completed this year too.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Employee: Tony Hartshorn
Title: Maintenance Worker
Date Hired: January 23, 2012
Spouse: Jessica
Children: Garrett age 6 and Kali age 15 months
Pets: None
Favorite Song: Anything by Chris Ladoux
Hobbies: Go-cart racing
Pet Peeve: Liars & Thieves

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cody Amor February 22nd

FROM THE DEPUTY ENGINEER

We received round 3 of the load rating analysis from Richland Engineering for 14 of our bridges; among them were the Ballville Bridge and the Miles Newton Bridge with no major surprises. We are waiting on the results for the State Street Bridge. Tindall Bridge had already been submitted last October. Round 4 of funding is currently out and applications are due to CEAO by February 24th. We have 14 bridges remaining and after they are load rated we will be 100% complete with all of the federal bridges.

The list of roads to be included in this year's paint striping contract has pretty much been completed with 5 Townships participating also. Those Townships are: Ballville, Green Creek, Riley, Scott, and York. Plans are being finalized and we'll be going to bids in the next couple of weeks. Quotes went out for rebar for the beams on WA 82-0.59; hopefully we get those in so we can start pouring in the near future. Have a good Weekend!!!

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

INCOME COMPARISON

(License, Permissive, Gas Tax)

January

2012	\$338,903
2011	\$337,649

Alltel

Alltel offers a 15% discount to all public employees; to receive this discount you need to take a copy of your paycheck stub to an Alltel store.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

DITCH CLEANING

We are still working on our long list of ditches to be cleaned. Mark is still working on 65. It has been a slow process with sections of rock that needed to be hammered out. He is just about though the last section of rock. He should finish this ditch early next week. Cody and Tim R. have been busy on the smaller ditches. They have cleaned a 2nd ditch on CR. 12, a ditch on CR 39, and also one on CR 65. We are still a ways away from catching up. We are in the process of hiring a few contractors to help us catch up.

BRUSH TRIMMING

Our brush crew has been out in full force the past few weeks. The process of buying the new bucket truck has put us behind on our tree trimming. Now with that behind us there are plenty of trees and brush to be cut.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Guardrail repairs from inspection sheet were taken care of.
- Guardrail at BA. 53-1.10 was repaired after an accident.
- Tindall Bridge welding project was finished.
- Ed is still working on mowing back banks.
- CR 259 drainage problem was repaired
- Spot berming done as needed.
- Pot holes filled as needed.
- Trucks were dumped and washed after each snow.
- Night shift is working on getting the vehicles waxed.

IN THE SHOP

Jeff, Andy and Steve have been busy in the shop. They have been keeping up with their service work and other repairs that come up. Jeff spent some time getting his tire and mower order around.

SIGN SHOP

Perry has been busy with sign grant paper work and his sign order for the year. There were a few mistakes in the paper work on the sign grant. He is trying to get that corrected so the paper work can be turned in.

THINGS OF INTEREST

Spaghetti Dinner

The Clyde High School Prom Committee is sponsoring a delicious Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, February 18th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Clyde High School Cafeteria. Which just happens to be before the Clyde/Bellevue Boys Basketball Game! Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under. All proceeds go to the 2012 Clyde High School Prom. Contact Kris for tickets.

Softball Team Sign-ups

Looking for players who want to play for a Sandusky County, Industrial League Team through the Fremont Recreation Center. All games will be Double Headers at Roger Young Park, Sunday afternoons, from mid May to mid July. For more information contact Eddie Fisher.