

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

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FROM THE ENGINEER

Old Man Winter won't quit. Even though it has been a relatively mild winter compared to other years, it has still been active and has had its fair share of snow, ice, and cold temperatures. Our guys are out today cleaning up yesterday's storm. I want to thank our guys for their dedication in keeping the roads clean and safe. So far this season, we have used an estimated 2,100 (+/-) tons of salt. We normally use about 3,500 tons of salt, per winter. It's all good though since Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on February 2nd; only two more weeks of winter. Next week looks to be in the 50's.

I can't believe it is the end of February. This year is flying by already. Between our own contracts and the Townships, we have already advertised and prepared 6 different contracts this year, with more to come. Yesterday we opened bids for this year's paving. We opened three different contracts and they all were below the estimate. CR 177 came in at \$736,886.50 and the low bidder was M&B Asphalt. CR 89 and CR 106 came in at \$942,273.50 and the low bidder was also M&B. The Town Route (Hayes, Cleveland, Siler, Third, Buckland) contract came in at \$768,741.95 and the low bidder was Kokosing. This year, we were able to include The City of Bellevue on our CR 177 (Their portion of CR 177) contract and The Village of Gibsonburg (Linden Ave.) on our CR 89, and CR 106 contract, saving them a considerable amount of money with our asphalt prices and larger quantities. This year, we are able to pave more miles since we are receiving more money from the Gas Tax (Extra 10.5 cents from gas, and 19 cents from diesel), and also the extra \$5 Permissive Tax that was implemented by Commissioners Kay Reiter and Scott Miller back in 2018.

A couple of weeks ago, I was invited by the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission, along with other elected officials, to meet Governor Mike DeWine. Governor DeWine was the main speaker for a dedication of a historical Underground Railroad Marker. These markers (one each at Commodore Perry and Erie Islands Turnpike Service Plazas, in Clyde) will highlight the dangerous journey to freedom that enslaved people encountered while escaping slavery. Ohio's Underground Railroad consisted of south-to-north escape routes that followed two major paths, one in eastern Ohio and another toward western Ohio. Today, these and other paths to freedom crossed the present-day Ohio Turnpike.

Governor DeWine was instrumental in getting the legislation to pass for the extra Gas Tax, and also has allocated extra safety funding throughout the State. We have already seen the effects of these programs, with the extra paving we are able to do this year, and getting both sides of the bypass projects funded. Both of the bypass projects will be funded with safety money, allocated by Governor DeWine.

We have ordered our last two tandem, Western Star, dump trucks (should be caught up with tandems for now). We will potentially be ordering two single axle dump trucks next year to replace our current singles (113 & 114). We are also ordering three new Dodge pick-ups this year, and in turn, we will be getting rid of our three worst vehicles, the Suburban (783), Crown Vic. (941), and the Stratus (982). The Mini Van (923), and two of the 06 Ford Pick-ups will be the new mowing vehicles. The Superintendent's Dodge truck (116) will be coming back to the office as the drainage vehicle. The last time that we purchased vehicles was in 2014.

Have a good weekend!!!



FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Here we are the end of February, beginning of March. Is it winter, or is it Spring? One day it is fifty degrees and the next day it is in the twenties. Definitely been a weird winter. I'm hoping spring is here soon and stays.

Mark has been working on cleaning the ditch along CR 89, but had to take a break from that and bring the excavator into the yard so we could stack some salt. Eric has also been cleaning a ditch along CR 128, north of SR 20, with the mini.

These past couple of days we have been on snow and ice control. A couple of inches fell Wednesday night which, coupled with 20+ mph winds, have been keeping us busy.

Miscellaneous Work

- ✓ Pot holes filled as needed.
- ✓ Tim has been remodeling the conference room.
- ✓ Log jams and brush were cleaned up on various bridges.
- ✓ The sign guys finished replacing the green signs in Ballville Township.
- ✓ Tim has been leveling spoils on Bark Creek (when the weather allows).
- ✓ Night shift has been washing and waxing equipment.

FROM THE DRAINAGE COORDINATOR

Ditch Maintenance has been busy since we last updated in the December Road Report. Terry McConnell has wrapped up the W.F. Williams ditch in York Twp., dipping 4.25 miles of the ditch. As soon as the weather allows, he plans on starting to spread those spoils. Terry then moved to the Sylvester Brenner ditch dipping 4.5 miles of this ditch. Next, if the weather allows, Terry

will be moving to Little Bark and dipping from the bike trail to Cole Road.

Don Hovis finished what he could on Bark Creek, which was 6.5 miles of ditch. Tim Below is close to finishing leveling the spoils on Bark Creek. He needs a few more good days and he could be wrapped up with that ditch. When Don left Bark Creek he headed up to Orthel Dean and Paul Cox ditch, in Madison and Scott Townships. He dipped just shy of 3 miles on those two ditches. The weather will have a big role in what Don's next project will be with us.

Paul Storey, with S&S Millwright, dipped out the Hissong Ditch in Vickery a few weeks ago, which was just over 0.5 of a mile. He also cleaned up some brush on the ditch while he was there.

Ron Hovis has finished up the John Albrecht ditch in Madison Township, cleaning the entire 1.25 miles. Ron then moved on to the Rosa Walby ditch in Jackson Township. He cleaned about 1 mile of the ditch from CR 41 to CR 39.

Unilliance was working on the J.W. Overmyer ditch and will get back to it when the weather allows. They will also start to level spoils when they can.

The Engineer's Road Crew has been working on the Draeger ditch along CR 89. They will be cleaning almost 2 miles of ditch by the time they finish up. Since the fall, we have dipped about 30 miles of ditch.

The biggest news with Ditch Maintenance is the purchase of our new mini excavator. We have been discussing the option of buying the machine for well over a year. The main purpose of the machine will be fixing tile outlets. Last year, we paid Ron Hovis \$7,410.00 (123.5 hrs) to fix 68 tile outlets. We have well over 150 on the list and more will be added after inspections. Cody and Lee have put 44 hours on the machine, fixing 54 tile outlets since receiving it in January. They have also cleared brush and will do minor dip outs as they are needed. The machine will pay for its self in no time.

Happy Belated Birthday

Jenna Sommers (Feb. 4th), **Perry Hill** (Feb. 8th), **Elizabeth Ball** (Feb. 12th),
Travis Arter (Feb. 12th), and **Cody Amor** (Feb. 22nd)!!