

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer
Carlos A. Baez Sr., P.E., P.S.

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FROM THE ENGINEER

The biggest news this past month was the agreement to purchase the property right next to our facilities. Jenna did all of the legwork to find the owner and to find out the particulars of the property. Once we found out the owner may be willing to sell, we requested a meeting with the County Commissioners. I want to commend the County Commissioners and our Administrator, Theresa Garcia, for their quick action on inspecting the property and for making an offer and agreeing in principle to purchase the property within days of our meeting. The 1.40 acre property is located directly to our east behind the Cookie Lady. It used to be home to the old EZ Color Corporation. We estimate that the building has been vacant for at least the last 10 years. Being vacant for that long, the property and the existing building obviously need some work done. However, parts of the existing building can be used as-is. With a bigger footprint, it gives us more options for storage both in the buildings and on the grounds. As we get access to the buildings and the ground, we will be deciding exactly what to do with the new property. However, the main purpose of the purchase was to give Ditch Maintenance more room to store their equipment and supplies. The Commissioners have signed a resolution approving the purchase contract, but they have not yet closed on the property.

We are in the process of finalizing the budget for 2023. Here are some of the highlights of the proposed work for next year: Paving Contract #1: CR 198, CR 232, CR 259, and CR 265; Paving Contract #2: CR 141, CR 149, CR 147, CR 74, and CR 92; Paving Contract #3: CR 247 and CR 308; Replacing the beams of the SAN 57-2.22 bridge on Christy Road over Muskellunge Creek; Equipment: 2 new single axle dump trucks, 2 new tandem dump trucks, new MowerMax Boom Mower; Roof Replacement for Building 7 and looking at possibilities for heating Building 7. If there are other items or materials that need to be added to the budget, please see Chad, Tara, or myself ASAP so we can add it to the budget.

We were asked by the Commissioners and the Visitors Bureau to oversee the paving of their parking lot across from the fairgrounds on North Street. The paving contractor was Henry W. Bergman out of Genoa. They completed the paving in early October and they did a really nice job. Prior to the paving, the existing stone parking lot needed to be regraded and leveled. Bergman brought in their mill machine and regraded the entire stone parking lot, getting rid of any high or low areas along the way. With such a large area to pave, the possibility of water puddles is always a concern when paving parking lots. However, Bergman did a really nice job with this project and it turned out to be a really nice improvement.

Shortly after the dismissal of the Wolf Creek petition project, the farmers most affected by the constant flooding of the creek requested a meeting with my office as well as with the Ottawa County Engineer, Ron Lajti. Jenna, Ron, and myself met with about 10 different farmers interested in repeting Wolf Creek. They plan to submit a new petition early next year to partially clean

areas of the ditch that need cleaned out and to remove log jams and silt along the way. We will be talking with the Commissioners of both counties early to ensure we have a successful project this time around.

Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, Beth Hannam, asked me to serve as a member of the strategy committee for the Sandusky-Seneca County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is a regionally driven plan that guides economic, community, and workforce development efforts in a region for a five-year period. We had our first strategy committee meeting last October 20th at the Neeley Center at Terra State Community College. It sounds like a really neat opportunity for our region to have a strategy and a written plan for economic development and other benefiting factors. Bowling Green State University is helping put together the original plan for us. From that plan, our county could qualify for federal or state grants to enhance our chances of getting future economic development projects.



FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

The mowers are still out working on cleaning up the right-of-ways. They moved back over west recently. Since the weather had been pretty good, they were able to get a lot more back banks now that most of the fields are down. The boom mower is still over at Streacker's, but it is getting worked on now. So hopefully we will have it back soon and get it out on the road and get these bigger ditches mowed down.

We installed a catch basin and some 24' RCP at the intersection of CR 169 and TR 16 to help build the shoulder. From there, we moved to CR 13 west of Burgoon where we replaced a culvert. From that project, we moved to 9 Mile Creek at CR 106 where we repaired some ditch banks for Ditch Maintenance.

We have had a few paving jobs come up in the last month. The first one was on S. River Road at CR 39 where the edge of the road fell apart. We dug it out and put in about 8” of Type II asphalt. Then, we paved the culvert on CR 13. We also did an asphalt repair on TR 142 on the bridge deck. The last one was on CR 198 by CR 259. Again, the edge of the road was completely breaking down. We worked with M&B Asphalt on this project. They brought their mill and widener and we had the trucks, roller, and manpower. We milled out about 125’ in length and about 5’ in width. Then, it was filled with Type II asphalt. This should get us through winter, but I think there is going to be some more areas that will need to be repaired next year when this road gets paved.

~ *Miscellaneous Road Work* ~

- Repaired guardrail after an accident on CR 106 at the Turnpike.
- Repaired tile on CR 109.
- Cracksealed and did asphalt repairs on CR 198.
- Cleaned up brush and dirt spoils around the culvert on TR 93.
- Mowed the town route.
- Tony and Jeremy worked with Dean on a couple of survey projects.
- Tim and Tony sealed the concrete bridge deck on TR 115.
- Cleaning the yard and washing vehicles on rainy days.
- Filling pot holes, as needed.
- Travis and Jimmy have been working with Ditch Maintenance hauling spoils and doing some spraying around the county.



FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

~ *Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!* ~

Health Insurance:

November's Promotional Theme is Supporting Caregivers. Taking care of a loved one can offer much joy and satisfaction, but it can also put extra strain on the caregiver's physical, mental and emotional well-being. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefit offers support! By visiting the Achieve Solutions website or calling 1.877.233.0976, you can get information, resources and tips for self-care. *Don't forget, we have a link available on our website for your convenience!*

Income Comparison:

(Jan - Sept)

2022 - \$4,583,802

2021 - \$4,655,049

2023 Open Enrollments:

Flexible Spending Account (FSA) – December 2, 2022 deadline

The FSA is a valuable benefit that helps you pay for health-related, out-of-pocket costs not covered by insurance as well as for qualified expenses to care for eligible dependents while you work.

United Way Pledges – December 9, 2022 deadline

Make a one-time donation or set up an automatic payroll deduction to donate to the United Way of Sandusky County. Your donation may go towards programs offered by CASA, the Liberty Center, Sandusky County Share and Care, the Village House, Camp Fire, and Sandusky County 4-H just to name a few... A complete listing can be found on the back of the pledge form.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Rick Eberly	November 1 st	1 year
Jenna Sommers	November 8 th	18 years
Paul Williams	November 8 th	1 year
Patrick Colston	November 29 th	1 year