

ROAD REPORT

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

No. 3

March 2023

FROM THE ENGINEER

So, the last month of winter (March) was just as mild as the rest of the winter. Our guys ended up going out to plow just a few times this past month. The first few days of April have been almost summerlike. We have begun our spring cleaning around our yard and have pretty much put all of our winter equipment away for the year. In total, we estimate that we used around 1,200 tons of salt. To put that in perspective, we average around 3,500 tons of salt in a normal winter season.

This past month, we had a couple of bid openings. First was the bid opening of the Christy Road SAN CR 57-2.22 Superstructure Replacement project over Muskellunge Creek. The low bidder was R & I Construction Inc. out of Tiffin, Ohio. Their bid came in at \$171,993.00, well below the estimate of \$219,990.75. This is an LPA project with 100% of the cost covered by a federal grant. Because the grant only covers the new beams, we are responsible for the removal of the beams, cleaning the beam seats, waterproofing, and paving the new structure. We have begun conversations with R & I, and we are working on getting a date scheduled for the delivery of the new beams. This will probably be sometime in June or July. We also facilitated the contract, plans, and bid opening for Ballville and Green Creek Townships' paving contract. The low bidder for this project was M & B Asphalt out of Tiffin, Ohio. Their bid of \$357,685.00 was right around the Engineer's Estimate with the price per ton of asphalt at \$85/ton which is about 6% higher than last year. We will have our own bid opening for our first paving contract on April 18th.

I was invited this past month to speak at the local chapter of American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) in Toledo along with Lucas County Engineer, Mike Pniewski, and Hancock County Engineer, Douglas Cade. Each of us spoke for about 10-15 minutes about the Capital Improvement programs (road and bridge projects) in each of our counties. On a curious note, Lucas County's Capital Improvement program is about \$15M - \$20M compared to our \$3M. Speaking of Lucas County, we are teaming up with the Lucas County Engineer's Office and two other counties (Wood and Ottawa) on a regional safety grant. The four counties have applied together for a Federal Highway Administration Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. We were informed that we were successful in receiving funding for the first step, which is developing the Transportation Safety Action Plan for our region. We will hire a consultant as a group to develop the plan. Once the plan is in place and we have identified locations where safety improvements are needed, we (the county), along with the rest of the municipalities within the county, can start to receive federal dollars to make safety improvements, as necessary. It will take about 12 months to develop the plan.

We have continued to clean up the new property next door. The guys have been working on the very back of the property, where we plan to use it for stocking fill, aggregates, and Rip Rap. Most of the initial cleanup was done early this winter by Lee and Cody. For the past couple of weeks, we have been able to remove a lot of the vegetation and found a really nice stone base underneath. The guys have been doing a great job cleaning up the property!

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

It looks like spring is upon us with temperatures in the 70's and 80's. What a great feeling! The grass has greened up and the trees are budding. Recently, Smith Paving started working on the Miles Newton and State Street Bridges. A lot of saw cutting and jackhammering has been done to repair the deteriorating sidewalks. They will also be doing a few spots on the Ballville Bridge as well.

Hopefully this will be the last time I talk about winter for a while. To date, we only used approximately 1,200 tons of salt this winter. This is probably the least amount of salt we have used in quite a few years. One problem with using less salt is trying to fit the rest of the contracted salt into the salt shed. Recently, we used ODOT's salt conveyor and stacked 1,000 tons into the salt shed. We still have 700 tons to order. It's going to be extremely full when we are done.

Ditch cleaning went on as best as we could, dealing with the rain and where to put or take the spoils. With that said, we were able to clean about 2,000 feet of ditch on CR 247 and a couple hundred feet on CR 290. Minor plow damage on the roads have been repaired, snow fence has been taken down, and now crews are out picking up trash along mowing routes.

~ *Miscellaneous Road Work* ~

- Perry and Tony lined up the work zones for the State Street and Miles Newton sidewalk projects.
- Brush crew finished the culvert and bridge lists. They also removed multiple pine trees along CR 181.
- Repaired guardrail on CR 198 at the Green Creek bridge.
- Leveled dirt on CR 177 that was dumped to build up the shoulder.
- Removed brush, trees, and a concrete slab, regraded lot, and built a new Rip Rap bin in the new back lot. Clean up for the back lot continues.
- Night shift is back on days.
- Pot holes filled, as needed.



Stacking salt with ODOT's conveyor



Digging out ditch on CR 247

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

Hope everyone had a Happy Easter! It was a beautiful day! As a reminder to our townships, you are invited to attend our “Road Crew Safety Training Day”. Township employees/trustees who drive dump trucks, run heavy machinery, or contribute to traffic control are welcome! The morning session will cover defensive driving specifically for maintenance vehicle operators. This class will be presented by Tom Carabin, Defensive Driving Instructor with CORSA. Our afternoon session, Work Zone Traffic Control, will be presented by Raymond L. Brushart, Program Manager with the Ohio LTAP Center. Please RSVP to tshanahan@co.sandusky.oh.us by Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Hope to see you here!

Health Insurance:

Be sure to visit www.achievesolutions.net/jhp to learn more about April’s Promotional Theme – Help for Neurodivergent Conditions. Some of their articles include ADHD in Adults, Recognizing Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and information about Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

Please note: On March 1, 2023 Beacon Health Options became Carelon Behavioral Health.

The new name will not impact our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefit, offered by Jefferson Health Plan. You will still receive five no-cost sessions per service. Please refer to the flyer in the Ready Room for more information on the services provided to plan members.

Income Comparison:

(Jan - Feb)

2023 - \$983,975

2022 - \$987,233



Chad Fisher	April 11 th
Carlos Baez	April 15 th
Kory Keegan	April 16 th



Perry Hill	April 29 th	21 years
Eric Wheatley	April 29 th	21 years



Carlos speaking at the ACEC meeting in Toledo