

June 8, 2010 Climax Township Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County and the Climax Township Board of Trustees was held at the Climax Township Hall, 151 South Main Street, Climax, Michigan, on Tuesday, June 8, 2010. The joint meeting began at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Kenneth L. McCauley (Township Representative), Kenneth R. Oscarson, Jeffrie M. Maddox, Daniel J. Moyle

Absent: Dennis J. Berkebile

Also present: Managing Director Joanna I. Johnson, General Superintendent Travis Bartholomew, Area Superintendent Jeff Daughtry, Climax Township Supervisor Phyllis Simmons, Clerk Marcia Lewis-Paul, Treasurer Don Schultz, Trustee Richard Thierjung, Trustee Monique Strong, Climax Township Road Committee Bob Schaller, and 5 citizens.

Following introductions, Managing Director Johnson shared the Kalamazoo County Road Commission had received the Transportation Asset Management Council's Organizational Award for the Asset Management program. She then reviewed agenda items as follows; a review of 2005-2009 Climax Township local road projects, 2010 Primary Road Capital Improvement Projects and the 2010-2014 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Clerk Lewis noted there were no Climax Township roads in the CIP and questioned if their roads were in that good of shape. Managing Director Johnson answered saying the CIP is based on road conditions/issues and prioritized accordingly. Roads Committee member Bob Schaller inquired about the condition of 44th Street, in Climax Township which is not in the CIP and as a primary road what can the township expect for maintenance. Managing Director Johnson replied basic maintenance, such as patching. Trustee Strong inquired if a primary road could be returned to gravel. Managing Director Johnson noted that is not the intent, however many road commissions have had to do so based on funding.

Township Supervisor Simmons inquired who funds the KCRC revenue for roads. Managing Director Johnson replied 64% of the road commission budget is from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) dollars collected from the gas tax and vehicle registration fees and licensing fees. She noted these funds have been decreasing and the 2010 budget for MTF is below 1998 figures.

Township Supervisor Simmons asked who puts together the Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Managing Director Johnson explained the KCRC and went on to explain she the Managing Director and a team including the General Superintendent, Chief Engineer and staff put together the priorities on the CIP. The CIP is then presented at a public meeting where the KCRC Board approves the plan. Ms. Johnson advised there is a great need for many projects, but the revenue is not there to support all the road commission would like to do.

Bob Schaller questioned the Special Assessment process. Managing Director Johnson described PA 246 and said each township's process is a little different. The KCRC is involved when a petition is received. The petitions are initiated by the landowners and there is a process that must be followed. Contributions by the KCRC, townships and special assessment dollars vary.

Township Supervisor Simmons asked if there was a difference in gravel from a road that is currently gravel to one that will be hard surfaced. General Superintendent Bartholomew replied KCRC has used 23A gravel for both projects in which gravel is placed over and existing gravel surface and remains as a gravel road and also when included as additional base with an HMA type project. KCRC is however anticipating using 22A gravel when applied under an HMA surface as the additional fines (clay content) is not necessary. KCRC prefers the 23A gravel when used on a road that will remain a gravel surface as the additional fines (clay) helps hold the aggregate in place.

Trustee Strong inquired how road maintenance responsibility is determined on township bordering roads. Managing Director Johnson noted the subject has been researched and it was determined the North Township maintains the South and the East takes care of the West. Township

Supervisor Simmons had a question regarding county bordering roads and Managing Director Johnson advised they vary and can be determined by the map and there have been agreements for many years addressing this issue. Clark Lewis inquired if they could receive a copy of those agreements and Managing Director Johnson agreed to see what records may be found however they are noted annually with every certification sent to the State.

Road Committee member Schaller commented he has had complaints from citizens that calls to the Kalamazoo County Road Commission are not returned, and wanted to know how the road commission wanted to be contacted. Ms. Johnson noted the road commission staff are public servants and take customer service very seriously. She requested to be notified of particular situations. Residents can call or e-mail the office and staff will enter a service request into the system which is routed to Area Superintendent Daughtry or the appropriate staff member for follow up. Managing Director Johnson noted there were 56 calls from Climax township residents in 2009 to date with currently 9 open. She stated she appreciates the calls.

A resident noted the sweeping process causes a lot of dust. Ms. Johnson explained this process is important for runoff into the drainage system. General Superintendent Bartholomew noted this is necessary clean up from winter maintenance.

A resident noted a mowing problem on MN Avenue. Area Superintendent Daughtry replied MN Avenue was not yet complete but mowers would be in the area soon.

A resident said a no passing sign was down on O Avenue.

Managing Director Johnson expressed appreciation to the Climax Township Board of Trustees for scheduling the joint meeting.