

THE MILLER MESSAGE

JUNE 26, 2008

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

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I would like to start by passing on a couple of special thanks; first to all of the current employees and recent retiree's for a job well done this past winter. Winter 2007/2008 has gone down as one of the worst on record for this area. There were certainly some trying moments, all of which were overcome by your commitment to this organization, and to providing the service that the residents of Saginaw County deserve and have come to expect.

I would also like to pass on a big thank you to all of our retiree's. Some of you I've had the pleasure of working with, others I have not. In either case the knowledge and experience you have passed on to those of us here is invaluable. Even more importantly however, the words of wisdom, advice, and the commitment to Saginaw County is absolutely priceless.

I believe it goes without saying that the last year or so has been a bit of a bumpy ride. In a short recap, you worked through a severely declining budget, trudged through the pains of contract negotiations, lost several extremely experienced employees to retirement, lost your manager Mr. Miller, battled through some issues related to his replacement, and in the midst of all that, fought off one of the worst winters Mother Nature has ever thrown at you. If that wasn't enough, the media even got their two cents worth from time to time.

I don't believe there is a person here that would say they are completely happy with the way everything turned out over the last year, including myself. On a positive note, that is all in the

past, it is what it is regardless of what we think as individuals, and it is time we move forward and start concentrating on the future.

As mentioned in the recent department meetings, I don't have all of the answers, nor does anyone else, but as a team I'm certain the right answer is there. I look forward to meeting with all of you on a regular basis and welcome any comments and/or suggestions you may have.

Thanks again for all your help. Enjoy your summer, and I'll see all of you soon.

Brian

Wendling



UNDERSTANDING GASB45

WHAT IS GASB45 & WHY IS IT NECESSARY?

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 45 was issued to provide more complete, reliable, and decision-useful financial reporting regarding the costs and financial obligations that governments incur when they provide other post-employment benefits (OPEB), other than pensions, as part of the compensation for services rendered by their employees. Other post-employment healthcare benefits, the most common form of OPEB, are a very significant financial commitment for many governments. OPEB's include health and prescription insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, and any other benefits provided to retirees. In simple terms, GASB is requiring us to list on our financial statements the cost of all OPEB's an employee will receive during their lifetime after leaving Road Commission employment, along with those persons that have already retired.

WHAT DOES THE ROAD COMMISSION NEED TO DO?

First the Road Commission will need to establish a trust account. A trust account is set up so any funds

that are contributed to it are protected and can only be used to pay post-employment benefits. Next, an actuarial study must be performed to analyze all the employees and retirees that are eligible for post-employment benefits; calculate the total estimated cost for those currently retired and future retirees; and determine the estimated amount that should be funded by the Road Commission on an annual basis. Our total cost is estimated to run between 30 million and 50 million dollars which will be amortized over 30 years and be booked as a liability on the Road Commission's financial statements. An actuarial study must be completed every 3 years to update the figures and to account for changes in the OPEB's.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR BENEFITS?

This has no direct impact on your future benefits. It does, however, ensure that funds are available for future benefits.

Information Provided By Julie Lightfoot

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- **SCRC Participates in Career Day at North Elementary School**
- **Radio Communications**
- **New Four-Level Left Turn Signal Installed in Saginaw Township**
- **Construction Projects Listed for 2008**
- **Bruce Weiss Memorial Employee Golf Outing**

CAREER DAY AT BIRCH RUN SCHOOL

Sign Shop Employees Matt Peek and Mike Ecker along with Maintenance Superintendent Rob Hudec spent Friday, May 9th at North Elementary Schools' Career Day in Birch Run. They met with a group of 2nd graders to explain their jobs at the Road Commission along with showing them the equipment they use. The kids got the opportunity to see the signs that the road commission makes along with seeing how the equipment works. To give the kids an idea of how high the bucket goes up in the air, Mike Ecker got in and extended it and let the kids yell to him. The kids really enjoyed the demonstration.

The Road Commission has participated in Birch Run's Career Day for the past 5 years.

Information Provided by Rob Hudec



TECHNICAL CORNER

Radio Communications

One of the key challenges that any organization faces is effective communication between its people. In the public service sector that challenge is amplified with the critical need to communicate with other service sector organizations and emergency responders. Vital information needs to be disseminated not only between people in the organization but between people in other agencies. The Saginaw County Road Commission is facing that challenge with the implementation of a new, fully integrated digital two way radio communication system. All radios are connected through the State of Michigan's Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) which allows for interoperability between state and local agencies. The Saginaw County Road Commission will be able to communicate with local agencies through Saginaw County 9-1-1. Communication within the Road Commission will be greatly improved and made more efficient by having continuous direct communication with all employees in the field.

Each employee will be assigned a hand-held radio to take with them while they are out working on the counties road system. The Road commission assigns employees to districts that will in turn have a designated talk group for better coordination of services and road work. In the event of an emergency any employee will also have the ability to contact Central Dispatch to report an accident or suspicious activity while traveling the counties roads thus aiding in the effort to make our county and its residents safer. Safety and security is a crucial responsibility for everyone. Managing Director Brian Wendling noted that "providing a safe working environment for our employees while at the same time providing a safe and secure county road system for all residents of Saginaw County is of utmost importance to both me and everyone at the Road Commission." The new radio system should prove to be a very valuable tool providing efficient communications and safety for everyone.

Article Provided by Tom Lier

Safety Corner

STAY COOL WHEN IT'S HOT

It sure has gotten hot out here! With the onset of hot weather, we must make sure that exposure to heat doesn't compromise our health and safety. Anyone can be vulnerable to the stresses of severe summer heat, but because so much construction work takes place outside, we're more vulnerable than most. We need to keep a cool head about hot weather safety.

Reduce your risk of suffering heat-related illnesses by protecting your body on the inside and the outside. Wear light-weight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Prevent sunburn by applying sunscreen. Eat regular, well-balanced meals. Drink plenty of fluids to keep your body hydrated; water is best, caffeinated drinks are not. Try to do the heaviest work during the coolest part of the day, and if you start to feel ill, move to a shaded area and take a short break.

Remember, working smart during the day lets you enjoy the things you really want to do in the evening.

Article Provided by Randy Emcott

SCRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations and Best Wishes to Dennis Burke. Denny retired from the Road Commission on June 1, 2008 with over 25 years of services. Thank you for your dedication and service.
- Eddie Jackson is scheduled to retire on August 1, 2008 with over 25 years of service. We wish you the best of luck. Thank you for your dedication and service.
- Welcome Summer Temps! We appreciate all of your hard work during the summer.

UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Estimated Dates

Information Provided By Scott Hare

JULY, 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Chip Seal	2	3 Office Closed for Holiday	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST, 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Fall Gravel Fall Brine	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER, 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Summer Hours are Monday–Thursday from 6:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. - Office is Closed on Friday

Center Road Widening Project

The Saginaw County Road Commission applied for a safety grant in February, 2007. Based on the accident history and the overall traffic volumes in the area, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) awarded a \$400,000 safety grant to the Road Commission in May, 2007.

The project consists of approximately 3300 feet of roadway widening along Center Road between Shattuck and Maybrook. The widening will allow construction of a designated left-turn lane throughout the length of the project along the frontage of Heritage High School. Currently the left turn lane on Center Road phases out in front of Saginaw Township's Zauel Library.

Widening of the egress lanes at the High School's southern driveway will also be part of the construction work. This will allow a dual turn lane for vehicles exiting the school and facilitate a smoother and more efficient flow of traffic.

One unique aspect of the traffic signal for northbound Center Road traffic will be the fact that the left turn lane will have a 4-Level (Flashing Left Arrow) signal. This new signal style has been mandated by the FHWA and allows for a more efficient flow of traffic.

One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction along Center Road to accommodate motorists, yet facilitate the construction activities. Businesses within the project limits will continue to have access for employees and patrons. Because of the anticipated congestion during construction operations, motorists in the area are still encouraged to seek alternate routes to their destinations.

The project schedule was coordinated with Heritage High School's summer break. Construction will take place between June 9, 2008 and August 28, 2008.

Information Provided by Adam Ball

2008 CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Information Provided by Adam Ball

Township	Road	Location	Type of Improvement	Start of Construction	End of Construction
Albee/Maple Grove	Gary	Lincoln to Sheridan	Paving	Ongoing	June, 2008
Chapin	Chapin	S. Co. Line to Brady	Paving	Ongoing	July, 2008
Brant	Brant	Over the S. Br. Of Bad River	Bridge Construction	Ongoing	July, 2008
Taymouth	Verne	Sheridan to Dorwood	Drainage & Paving	Ongoing	July, 2008
Frankenmuth	Roedel	Dehmel to Block	Drainage & Paving	Ongoing	August, 2008
Saginaw	Subdivisions	Berberovich, Pacelli, Hepburn	Drainage/Paving	Varies	September, 2008
Fremont	Lakefield	Hemlock to Fordney	Road Drainage	June, 2008	August, 2008
Saginaw	Center	Shattuck to Maybrook	Turn Lane Construction	June, 2008	August, 2008
Maple Grove	Bueche	Volkmer to Chesaning	Road Drainage	June, 2008	August, 2008
Thomas	S. Thomas	Schomaker to Gratiot	Drainage & Paving	July, 2008	August, 2008
Swan Creek	Prior	M-52 to the West 0.3 Miles	Cross Culvert Replacement	July, 2008	August, 2008
Birch Run	Beyer	Willard to Burt	Drainage & Paving	July, 2008	October, 2008
Fremont	Lakefield	Hemlock to Fordney	Road Paving	August, 2008	September, 2008
Saginaw	Barnard	@ McCarty	Intersection Improvements	August, 2008	October, 2008

We're On The Web!

www.scrc-mi.org

SAGINAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

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Phone: 989-752-6140

Fax: 989-752-8934

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday–Friday

7:00 A.M.—3:30 P.M.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: 4-28-08—Labor Day

Monday–Thursday 6:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

CLOSED FRIDAY

COMMISSIONERS

Wallace “Butch” Warner—Chairperson

John Sangster—Vice-Chairperson

Richard Mallette—Member



Bruce Weiss Memorial Golf Outing

It's time again for the Annual Saginaw County Road Commission's Employee Golf Outing & Barbeque.



This is a time for the employees to get together outside of work and have fun. This year the golf outing is scheduled for Friday, July 18, 2008 with registration at 9:00 am at the Valley View Farm Golf Course located at 1435 S. Thomas Road in Shields. The golf layout will be a four-person scramble beginning with a 9:30 am shotgun start.

There's still time to sign up! Please contact either Ryan Whiteherse or Tom Kramer by July 7th to register. It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

We hope to see everyone there!

Information Provided by Ryan Whiteherse

Saginaw County Road Commission has 1,846 miles of roads to maintain. Although local townships share in the cost of maintaining some of the roads, the Saginaw County Road Commission is responsible for most of the cost.

The extensive number of rivers and drains in Saginaw County means there are also over 200 bridges to maintain. Smaller tributaries and ditches add more than 2,800 culverts to the road system and the list continues to grow as new roads are built to meet the needs of our ever changing and expanding community.

As you can see, maintaining the county road system is no easy task; however, everyone at the Saginaw County Road Commission is committed to giving you the best road system for your money. We are proud to be a part of the Saginaw Community and are committed to building a quality road system which will last for many generations to come.

HEALTH CORNER - PROTECT YOUR SKIN

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. More than one million skin cancers are diagnosed annually.

More than 90 percent of all skin cancers are caused by sun exposure. A person's risk for skin cancer doubles if her or she has had five or more sunburns. The majority of people diagnosed with melanoma are white men over the age of 50. Men over the age of 40 spend the most time outdoors and have the highest annual exposure to ultraviolet radiation. While melanoma is uncommon in African-American, Latinos and Asians, it is most deadly for these populations because it is more likely to develop undetected. Survival rates for patients with early detection is about 99%. The survival rate falls between 15 and 65% or higher, depending on how far the disease has spread. Melanoma is the third most common cancer in women aged 20-39. One large contributing factor is exposure to tanning beds. Occasional use of tanning beds almost triple the chance of developing melanoma.

There are several steps you can take to help prevent your chances of developing skin cancer.

- **Wear protective clothing.** Long sleeved shirts and long pants are the most protective. Dark colors offer more protection than

light colors. Dry fabric is generally more protective than wet. Be aware that covering up does not block out all UV rays.

- **Wear a hat.** A hat with at least a 2-3" brim all around is ideal because it protects the neck, ears, forehead, nose and scalp. A baseball cap can protect the front and top of the head but not the back of the neck and the ears, where cancers commonly develop.
- **Use sunscreen.** Use sunscreen and lip balm with an SPF factor of 15 or more on areas of the skin exposed to the sun. Use sunscreen even on hazy days or days with light or broken cloud cover because the UV light still comes through.
- **Wear sunglasses.** Wrap around sunglasses with at least 99% UV absorption provide the best protection for the eyes and skin area around the eyes.
- **Seek shade.** This is particularly important between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm, when the UV light is the strongest. Keep in mind that UV light can come through the clouds, can reflect off water, sand, concrete and snow, and reach below the water's surface.