

Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report April 7, 2014

Summary

FINAL WINTER OPERATIONS – Although the actual amount varies depending upon what source you use, it appears as though the total snowfall amount for our area this winter was around 110 inches. This was the highest total in at least thirty-six years. Ninety-four days were spent plowing snow. We plowed over 150,000 miles and travelled another 35,000 in support roles. We used 44,500 gallons of diesel fuel and 11,452 gallons of gasoline. The County did not run out of salt or sand as many other local agencies did. As a result we did not have to pay the premium prices for added material. Our salt cost was \$48.00 per ton throughout the winter. Many other agencies were paying in excess of \$200.00 a ton by the end of the winter. We will also be able to absorb the added cost of overtime within our existing budget. Below are the totals for snow removal cost and fuel usage. (the fuel usage does not show the fuel we used in November and December for snow removal): The total cost represents the cost based on the FEMA estimate. It does not show the actual added cost to the County. The actual added cost was approximately \$325,000 (\$110,000 in 2013 and \$215,000 in 2014). This represents the “cushion” that was built into the budget. Although we do not have to ask for added money to cover the cost of snow removal, our budget “cushion” is now non-existent. We had been hoping to use these funds to add to our road paving program. This means the greatest effect of this winter was its effect on our expanded paving program. Although we will still be able to repair more road miles than last year we will still be only at a maintaining level in regards to our roadway system. The loss of the “cushion” took away our ability to substantially improve the system.

SNOW REMOVAL COSTS	MILES PLOWED	TOTAL COST
NOVEMBER	7328	\$45,189.23
DECEMBER	18243	\$101,675.12
JANUARY	54985	\$364,649.94
FEBRUARY	43321	\$286,377.65
<u>MARCH</u>	<u>27450</u>	<u>\$169,460.43</u>
TOTALS	151327	\$967,352.37

FUEL USAGE BY MONTH	DIESEL			GAS		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
JANUARY	9564	7524	14952	2638	2654	2627
FEBRUARY	7547	6664	11384	2272	2255	2438
MARCH	4634	6771	10785	2609	2600	2458

ASSET MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT/REPAIR PROGRAM –

Mark Wilson of JPR has begun designing four County bridges, #s 31 (800E over Eagle Creek, just north of 50S), 70 (CR50E over Smith Ditch, just south of SR10), 79 (CR450S over Smith Ditch, just west of Range Road), and 86 (CR900S over Bogus Run, just west of 100S). The surveys are nearly complete and the soil borings will be completed in the next two weeks. We will close three of the bridges for one day while the borings are being completed:

Thursday, April 10th - Bridge 31

Monday, April 14th – Bridge 86

Tuesday, April 15th - Bridge 79

The County’s five year plan to replace all structurally deficient bridges in the County is on schedule and there is enough money in the CEDIT fund both presently and budgeted to complete this program. Any redirection of funds from this account will jeopardize the replacements.

BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CONCRETE	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	4	5	5	4	4
ALUMINUM	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	4	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	4	5	5	4	4

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM –

The Highway Department has completed its final recommendations for the 2014 road improvement list. The list originally contained 191 miles of improvements at a cost of 1.39 million dollars. As a result of a mandated state budget cut and winter snow removal costs the County cannot complete this list. The amended list has 138 miles on it at a cost of approximately \$750,000. In addition some of the major improvements have been downgraded. The chart below also contains our road plan for the next three years. The totals shown are those that would substantially improve the County roadway system. At current funding levels this will not be possible. At the current amount we will be able to maintain the current state of our County's roadway system. Our department seeks the Commissioners support in exploring additional funding options with the County Council.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014	2015	2016
CHIP SEAL	76.6	53.6	53.25	48.8	33.3	0	39.8	0	12.75	0	47	84	44.7	84	84
CHIP FOG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	10.8	20	20
PUG	9	10	10	15	7	7	3.5	8	0	4	2	20	6.5	20	20
WEDGE CHIP	4.5	6	4.25	13.8	6.75	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	15.3	5	5
CRACK SEAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
RE-STONE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	50	51.8	50	50
HOT-MIX	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.75*	0	0	0	1.25	2	0	2	2
TOTAL MILES IMPROVED	90	69.6	67.5	77	47	7	54*	8	12.75	4	115.3	191	138	191	191
LANE MILE YEARS ADDED	670	535.2	515.3	624	370	70	475	80	89.25	40	560.3	1177	759	860	860
LANE MILE YEARS LOST	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688
NET LANE MILE YEARS	-17.8	-153	-173	-64.3	-318	-618	-214	-600	-599	-648	-128.5	489	71.2	489	489

	RE- STON E	CHIP SEAL	FOG SEAL	PUG	CHI P WE DGE	CRAC K SEAL	HOT MIX
LANE MILES ADDED PER TREATMENT	2	7	8	9	8	3	15

2018 INDOT CALL FOR PROJECTS

For the 2018 call for projects that has a deadline of May 12th, 2014 the Superintendent will submit at least three additional applications for Federal-aid projects. These include Bridge #27 over the Yellow River on 700E, just north of SR8,; a road widening on portions of 500N, and the creation of a shared use golf cart path on SR10 around Bass Lake. A road reconstruction project on 600E will also be considered. Other projects are being considered.

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION POSITION- The Council has approved the funding and creation of this position. We posted the position and received one application. The applicant, Bob Lorenz, has extensive experience in the Construction Inspection field. The Superintendent recommends to the Board that the Commissioner's hire Mr. Lorenz for the position. S per the job description, Mr. Lorenz will report to the Commissioners and assist the Highway Superintendent.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE – The Highway Department Facebook page is updated nearly every day and has been successful in promoting the Department and keeping the citizens of Starke County informed.

SUMMER OPERATIONS Preparations for summer operations have begun. We have moved our mowing and paving equipment form the storage area in Knox to the Highway Garage. We have also hauled in most of the material we will need for summer road improvements.