# Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report March 2016

# **WINTER OPERATIONS**

It looks like, based on the long range forecast, winter is near its end. Overall, it has been a mild winter. As a result we have used much less salt, sand, diesel fuel, fewer plow blades, and other winter items this year. The overall savings will be compiled by our department this month and reported next month. We used the minimum required amount of our salt bid estimate (950 tons, 80% of the bid amount of 1250 tons). Today we submitted our bid to the state for next year. We will once again bid 1250 tons of untreated salt. We are also adding 100 tons of treated salt., which we will use on main routes and areas that tend to be more icy than others.

#### **DIESEL FUEL BID SAVINGS**

We have recently refined our diesel fuel bidding process. We have spoken to most of the suppliers to get their input on the process. As a result we are using stricter fuel specifications. This has allowed more suppliers to be competitive and it has resulted in better fuel for our trucks which translates to better MPG. Cheaper and better fuel in the tanks has save tens of thousands of dollars this winter. We will have a more precise amount when we compile all the winter costs later this month

#### **FROST LAW**

The frost law signs were put up on February 1<sup>st</sup>. As of today we have received 27 permit requests. This has enabled us to monitor the routes being used and in some cases allowed us to redirect heavy truck traffic. We are still seeking ways to improve this ordinance. We have asked local farmers and business for their input. The biggest question is enforcement of non-compliant heavy haulers.

## SPRING/SUMMER OPERATIONS PREPARATION

- 1) Culvert replacements
- 2) Brush Cutting
- 3) Potholes and other frost repairs
- 4) Sand and Gravel stockpiling
- 5) Oil bids for asphalt
- 6) Road Assessments and repair selection
- 7) Mowing Crew (Double Mowing)
- 8) Bridge maintenance crew
- 9) Bridge replacement plan update

# **SAFETY AND TRAINING**

### Relevant safety training for the spring

- 1) Meth awareness
- 2) LTAP Road Builder class #10 Drainage/Road School
- 3) Chain Saw and Brush equipment inspection
- 4) Work One Apprentice Program/ SCILL Center Internship Program
- 5) Storm water Drainage Conference with Surveyor

## FACILITY UPDATE

- 1) Bids for a fire prevention system
- 2) Updated alarm system with ADT for no additional cost

### **FUNDING**

HB1001 update