

Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report – May 2016

WINTER OPERATIONS

Winter operations are complete – Our costs were 75% of last year's. We have a full salt reserve (300tons). We are using our leftover sand (1000 tons) in our summer asphalt mix. We used 10,000 less gallons of diesel fuel this year compared to last year's total. We also used far fewer plow blades. We will be able to use these next year.

Industrial Park Traffic

300E/200S – Truck Traffic problem

- 1) A Google Maps directions change is being implemented by the SCEDF
- 2) We are doing minor repairs/continued monitoring
- 3) We have had discussions with the industrial park businesses
- 4) We have seen improvement. More trucks are using the proper truck route off SR8. Fewer trucks are using 300E from the 200S and Toto Rd entrances.

STATE FUNDING BILL HB1001/SEA67

The highway funding committee met on May 2nd. We are scheduled to meet again next Monday. We discussed where, when, and how the "new" funding will be used. We hope to be able to maximize the available funding match. By doing so we could potentially free over \$1,000,000.00 for other uses throughout the County in the next five years. We should have a report ready for the next Commissioners meeting.

SPRING/SUMMER OPERATIONS

- 1) Culvert replacements are ongoing. We have completed twenty thus far this year.
- 2) Brush Cutting is being done throughout the County
- 3) Mowing operations began on April 25. We have five mowers operating throughout the County.
- 4) Drainage problems exist at Bass Lake/CR210/Elm St. and 300W/800S. We have hired a consultant to come up with possible solutions.

ROAD INVENTORY CHANGES

- 1) The approved list from the last Commissioner's meeting is being submitted
- 2) Petro St.- Gus Eckhart has asked the Highway Department to extend Petro Street in San Pierre to the West about 250 yards to accommodate a new modular home.

INTERN/WORK ONE OJT PROGRAM

- 1) Our OJT workers (2) through Work One have saved the County \$12,000 so far this year.
- 2) The 18-24 y.o. Work One intern program has been expanded to all ages. We have already saved \$500.00 in wages.

TRAINING

- 1) Temporary Traffic Control Road Builder Class– eight employees attended the LTAP/Purdue sponsored training in Warsaw last month. As a result we are implementing new traffic control protocols, especially for our bucket truck.
- 2) MUTCD (Signs) Road Builder class. May 19th - thirteen of our employees are signed up for this LTAP/Purdue class that will be held in Plymouth at the Swan Lake Resort.
- 3) Lifting Safety Training was conducted by our insurance company. Ten of our employees attended.
- 4) Weekly meetings are ongoing. We are now typing up summaries for our mowers who start from home and cannot attend the meeting.
- 5) The Superintendent will be attending the APWA snow conference this month.

EQUIPMENT

- 1) ROLLER – We recently purchased a used roller for \$8,000 from West Michigan Tractor Sales in South Haven, Michigan. We were planning to rent a roller this summer which would have cost more than this roller cost to purchase.
- 2) AUCTION – We have some old equipment we plan to auction in the future (grader, our very old roller that we just replaced, patch boxes)

SAFETY

There were no injuries this month.