

# Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report – April 3, 2017

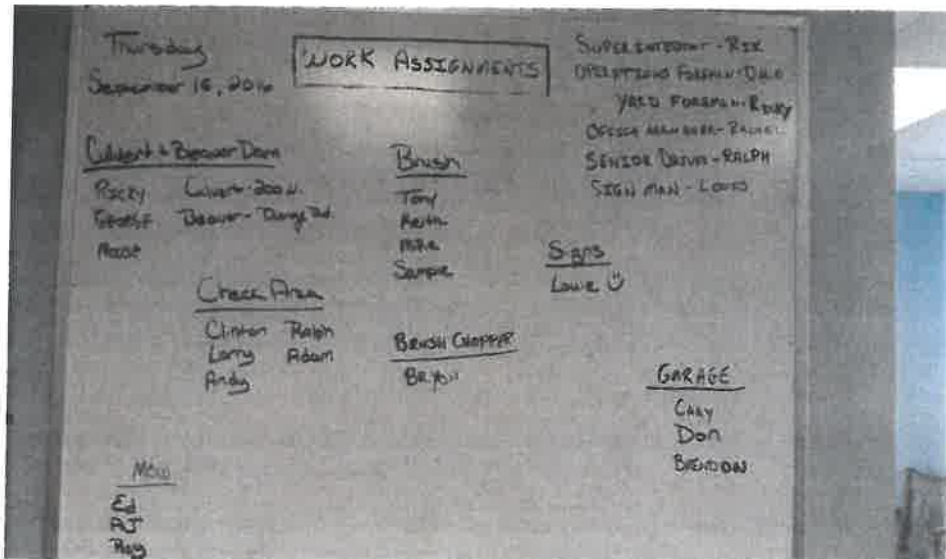
## Winter Operations

We had five snow events last month. On the Ides of March (March 15<sup>th</sup>) we had a fairly heavy snow of up to eleven inches in a few areas of the County. That snowfall is illustrative of how timing is everything in snow plowing. The snow began falling in the early hours of the 15<sup>th</sup> and we had our drivers begin plowing at 4AM. The snow fell throughout the morning. Although our drivers began early some citizens had a fairly tough drive to work because although the driver plowed their area early the snow that continued to fall accumulated up to five or six more inches by the time some people set off for work. In contrast, if the snow had begun the night before and ended early in the morning most people would not have had to face snow on their work commute. Try as we might we cannot catch the snow as it falls, it must accumulate before we can get it off the roadways. With most of our routes taking five to eight hours to complete one pass we are lucky if our drivers can complete two passes in one twelve-hour shift. Sometimes this mean that citizens will have to face some accumulations on the roadways, especially during heavy snowfalls such as fell on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

We will present the totals of our winter costs during next month's report.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### STRATEGIC VERSUS TACTICAL PLANNING



# BRIDGE

## Current Bridge Projects

Priority	Bridge Number	Location	Sufficiency Rating	Status	Completion year
1	50	CR1150E over Osborn Ditch, 1m S of SR10	24.6	Construction should be complete near May 1st.	2017
2	46	CR900E over Osborn Ditch, .9m S of SR10	26.9	Construction to begin in May 2017	2017
3	47	CR625S over Osborn Ditch, .06M W of CR875E	41.6	Construction to begin in July 2017	2017
4	36	CR25N over Eagle Creek, .1 miles W of 600E	26.9	JPR is designing the bridge plans.	2018
5	58	CR800S over Bogus Run, 0.02 miles E of CR200W	35.9	JPR is designing the bridge plans.	2018
6	154	CR100E over Robbins Ditch, .4m N of CR400N	47.1	JPR is designing the bridge plans.	2018
7	7	CR1200E over the Yellow River, .5M N of CR250S	35.2	Degin Contract awarded to Jones, Petrie, and Rafinski. We are coordinating the creation of the contract with INDOT	2019
8	13	CR600E over Robbins Ditch, .01 miles S of 800N	61.6	Not deficient, but will most likely need to be replaced within the next ten years	2020
9	27	CR700E over the Yellow River, .1 miles north of SR8	70.9	We are looking to replace this wooden structure with a concrete bridge better suited for heavy trucks	2020/21
10	140	CR200E over Robbins Ditch, .1 miles S of 500N	66.1	Not deficient, but will most likely need to be replaced within the next ten years	2021
11	38	CR25N, .1 miles E of 800E	61	Not deficient, but will most likely need to be replaced within the next ten years	2022
12	59	CR700S, .2 miles E of CR200W	62.9	Aluminum Box Culvert. It is deteriorating early and we are keeping a close watch on it.	2055/2022
13	35	CR25N, .3 miles E of 500E	65.2	Aluminum Box Culvert. It is deteriorating early and we are keeping a close watch on it.	2055/2023
14	66	Range Road, justd South of CR500S	77.6	Metal Bridge Deck. Repair contract, Clean Bearing areas, wedge and level	2025
15	88	Old SR10, .3 miles E of US35	78.8	Aluminum Box Culvert. It is beginning to deteriorate and we are keeping a close watch on it.	2055/2030

## BRIDGE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

- 1) Bridge #66 (Range Road at 500S, north of Bailey's) approach repair and grate replacement \$27,000
- 2) Bolt tightening on our seven wooden bridges \$3,000
- 3) Guardrail upgrades to current standards for 35 of our County bridges \$100,000

We will be able to complete the first two this year, but we will not be able to complete the guardrail upgrades until next year when the cumulative bridge allotment has been reestablished.

## **CULVERTS AND DRAINAGE**

**Culvert Replacements** – Thanks to the mild March we have gotten a jump start on our culvert replacements. We have replaced fourteen so far. A target of fifty replacements this year is not out of reach.

### **Pipe Replacements by year**

2013	13
2014	19
2015	31
2016	37
2017	14

## **ROADWAY**

**Gravel Roads** This month we will be re-stoning about fifty miles of our county gravel roads.

We will also be making our first batch of Cold Mix asphalt which we plan on using in May.

**Mowing operations** will begin in the next two weeks. This year we will have six mowers out on the road at all times, barring breakdowns. We also will have two brush chopper mowers operating throughout the County to help clear brush. Mowing operations usually last into October.

**Hot Mix Costs** We met last week with four paving companies to discuss possible cost cutting measures for our planned hot mix expansion. The initial talks went well and it looks like we may be able to reduce the per mile hot mix cost from over \$100,000.00 per mile to somewhere near \$60,000. This is possible because of the quantity of roads we plan on paving, a less strict mix design from INDOT standards, less of our roads need full depth milling, and because we will be doing much of the prep work (wedging, berming, and shoulders) Asphalt prices have also come down a bit in the last year.

## **SAFETY AND TRAINING**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> Harassment in the Workplace Training** Ten of our employees attended

**April 13<sup>th</sup> (Plymouth, IN) Temporary Traffic Control Training (Road Scholar Course # 7)** Seven of our newer employees will be attending

**April 17<sup>th</sup> CPR/First Aid Training** - Two members of the EMS Department will conduct the training for us. All of our employees will be attending. After it is complete we will install a defibrillator at the highway garage/environmental services.

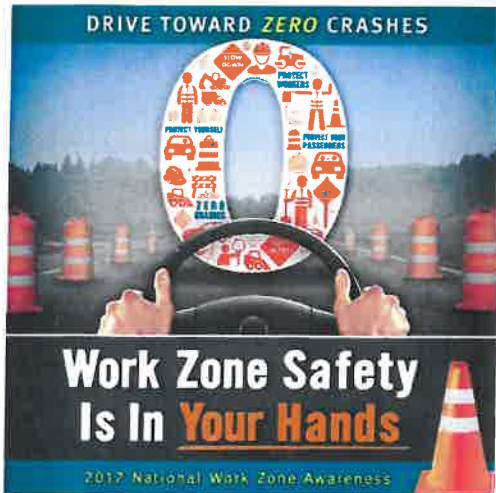
**April 24-27<sup>th</sup> APWA National Snow Conference** The Superintendent will be attending.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Muncie, IN) Roadway Safety (Road Scholar Course # 5) Employees working on their road Scholar certification will attend**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> (Porter County) Chainsaw/Aerial Lift Safety Sixteen of our employees will be attending**

We have had one vehicle accident this month and one Workman's Comp Claim.

It is National Work Zone Awareness month



## **EQUIPMENT**

Below is a picture of one of our two new New Holland tractors. We will be using both of them for mowing operations this year.



## **FACILITIES**

### **Roof Repairs and Resealing**

As weather permits the roofing contractors will be replacing the roof over the office area and resealing the garage area roof. The money for these repairs was allocated last year from monies received from permits, scrap, insurance reimbursements, etc..

## **FUNDING REPORT**

HB 1002 –

The bill was voted through the Senate's Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee with some significant changes to the bill that will affect Starke County.

- 1) The 80/20 matching amount has been reduced back to 50/50**
- 2) Very few additional funds will be added to the MVH accounts for Counties (Motor Vehicle Highway).
- 3) There will be some increase to the LRS accounts (Local, Roads, and Streets)
- 4) Most money made available to Counties will be in the form of matching funds which makes it even more imperative that we have a reliable source of to match the available funds.**
- 5) The gas tax will be increased in two .05c increments instead of one .10c increase.
- 6) There will be a .25c increase to the \$5.00 tire fee.

## **HEAVY TRUCK ORDINANCE**

A first reading of the draft will be held tonight, with a second reading in two weeks