

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Merry
Christmas!!



Fred's Desk



IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME in the county. As 2011 is about to be history, it's a good time to look back at what has been accomplished this year. Last December, I mentioned in the "County Update" that we had a lot of snow in 2010. This year, I can report we had too much rain. We finally had our first snow call-out this past Saturday evening (Dec. 17th), which is the latest date that I can remember. In April and the first half of May, we had enough rain to create enough damage to our roadways to have a federal disaster declared. We had 8 embankment failures with \$800,376 in damage. FEMA and OEMA will fund 87.5% of the cost of repairing this damage. In June, we had another heavy rainfall event which heavily damaged CH 4 (Willow Grove Road) and washed out two of our bridges. This did not qualify for FEMA

funds, but we were able to get an emergency grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) in the amount of \$273,000, which is 81% of the cost to replace the two bridges. In 2011, a total of 6 projects were bid in the amount of \$1,549,293, which included two projects to construct 3 new bridges, one retaining wall project, one project to supply concrete box beams for three new bridges, one dust control project, and one to supply over 2400 new roadway signs. In addition to routine bridge maintenance, our bridge crew built ten new bridges and installed one new steel culvert, 8 feet in diameter. An additional \$143,652 was spent to purchase beams for the newly installed bridges. This year saw many personnel changes. Bill Androsko, Alan Hornyak, Bob Kish, Dennis Hurst and Rudy Meholovich have retired, and Rick

Oberdick found other employment. New employees hired this year were Mike Drake, Mark Bosnic, Randell Hammond, Kevin Ball and Bob Safell. This leaves us with a total of 41 employees. A lot of work has been accomplished this past year by our road and bridge crews, along with our courthouse staff. We have been working short-handed, since the majority of our operating income comes from license plate fees and gasoline tax, which has declined over the past several years, while everything we have to purchase has gone up. This probably won't change until our country's economy recovers. In closing, my wish to all of our employees, their family and loved ones, and to all of you, is have a very **"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!"**

***Belmont County Engineer's Department Offices and Garages
Closed December 23 and 26, 2011.***

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2011 Retiree Luncheon

On December 15, John DeBonis organized the annual Belmont County Engineer's Department Retired Employees Luncheon which was again held at Mehlman's Cafeteria on National Road east of St. Clairsville. This is the fifth time that the group has met.

After a fine meal, John welcomed everybody and gave an update on the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. John is the Belmont County chairman of the Public Employee Retirees, Incorporated.

Fred Bennett said a few words and thanked everybody for all of their hard work over the years. It was great to see everybody again. Many thanks to John DeBonis for arranging this great event!



Fred Bennett, Ron Horvath, Shereza O'Hara and John DeBonis



Dee Durig and Don Grant.



Judy and Roger Lucas along with our great hostess!



Jimmy and Sue Carpenter.



Norm and Pat Douglass.



Jim, Lukacsko, Nancy Kimmel and Margaret Piccin.



Kenny and Shirley Ellis



Paul Helms, Howard and Kathi Hayes.

Welcome Bob Saffell

On December 12, Bob Saffell started his employment with the Engineer's Department. Bob lives near Centerville with his wife, Terri and 2 sons, Frankie (7) and Robbie (5). Bob was formerly employed at Belmont Mills. He enjoys spending time doing some farming and working on antique tractors.



County Road 86 Culvert Replacement

Hunter Belmont Road, County Road 86, has been closed since heavy rains had washed out the culvert at this location on October 17.

The road was recently reopened after this 8 foot X 60 foot steel culvert was installed.



New Equipment

Recently delivered to the Roscoe Road Garage was the Case 621E loader, pictured below left and 2 stainless steel dump bodies, pictured below right. The equipment is being outfitted and will be in use in the near future. The loader was bought through Southeastern Equipment of Cambridge and the dump bodies were purchased through Ace Equipment of Zanesville.



Sign Upgrade by Mike Wahl, P.E.

The Engineer's Department is in the process of replacing our roadway signs to meet the Federal reflectivity standard. We received an 80% Federal grant for the materials.

As a result of this work, all signs such as "Children at Play", "Hidden Entrance" and others that do not meet the requirements of the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Devices are being removed. Signs of this nature will no longer be allowed in the roads rights of way and will not be provided or installed by the County Engineer.

The new signs should be much brighter, especially at night. They are expected to maintain the Federal minimum reflectivity values for the next fifteen years.



Job Performance Evaluations

Some of you might like to know what a supervisor is really saying in all those glowing employee work performance evaluations she/he keeps cranking out.

AVERAGE: Not too bright.

ACTIVE SOCIALLY: Drinks heavily.

ZEALOUS ATTITUDE: Opinionated.

CHARACTER ABOVE REPROACH: Still one step ahead of the law.

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL: Will stick with us until retirement.

QUICK THINKING: Offers plausible excuses for errors.

TAKES PRIDE IN WORK: Conceited.

TAKES ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPERTUNITY TO PROGRESS: Buys drinks for superiors.

INDIFFERENT TO INSTRUCTION: Knows more than superiors.

STERN DISCIPLINARIAN: A real jerk.

TACTFUL IN DEALING WITH SUPERIORS: Knows when to keep mouth shut.

APPROACHES DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WITH LOGIC: Finds someone else to do the job.

A KEEN ANALYST: Thoroughly confused.

EXPRESSES SELF WELL: Can string two sentences together.

SPENDS EXTRA HOURS ON THE JOB: Miserable home life.

METICULOUS IN ATTENTION TO DETAIL: A nitpicker.

JUDGEMENT IS USUALLY SOUND: Lucky.

MAINTAINS PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE: A snob.

KEEN SENSE OF HUMOR: Knows lots of dirty jokes.

STRONG ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES: Stubborn.

SLIGHTLY BELOW AVERAGE: Stupid.

OF GREAT VALUE TO THE ORGANIZATION: Turns in work on time.

IS UNUSUALLY LOYAL: Wanted by no-one else.

ALERT TO COMPANY DEVELOPMENTS: An office gossip.

REQUIRES WORK-VALUE ATTITUDINAL READJUSTMENT: Lazy and hard-headed.

HARD WORKER: Usually does it the hard way.

ENJOYS JOB: Needs more to do.

COMPETENT: Is still able to get work done if supervisor helps.

CONSULTS WITH SUPERVISOR OFTEN: Annoying.

WILL GO FAR: Relative of management.

USES RESOURCES WELL: Delegates everything.

DESERVES PROMOTION: Create new title to make h/h feel appreciated.

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