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Road contracts let for \$5 million

Stolaruk Corp. of Southfield was lowest of 12 bidders at \$4,387,145 for modernization of 4.4 miles of M-59 between Bogie Lake Road and Williams Lake Road in western Oakland County, the state highways department announced.

The project was the largest of nearly \$5 million in road work for which contracts were awarded.

M-59, long a danger and bottleneck in Oakland officials' thinking, will be widened from two to five lanes. The job will include grading, drainage structures, curb and gutter work and resurfacing, as well as a separated, paved bicycle path on the south side of the roadway.

Completion date is scheduled for December of 1978.

\$42,574 for improvements in the sewage disposal system at a rest area on southbound I-75 northwest of Pontiac.

*Midwest Bridge Co. of Williamston was lowest of five bidders at \$229,538 for these deck resurfacing on bridges in Southfield and northwest Detroit.

M-39 (Southfield Freeway) over Nine Mile; Northland Drive over US-10

(Lodge Freeway); US-24 over the Rouge River; Eleven and One-half Mile over I-75; and a left turn bridge over the Lodge Freeway in Southfield. Completion date is this November.

TWO OAKLAND County firms were low bidders on major highway projects elsewhere.

Stolaruk Corp. of Southfield and Cadillac Asphalt Paving Co. of Novi were lowest of three with a joint bid of \$34,695 for a total of 6.1 miles of resurfacing on major streets in Detroit.

Kelcers Corp. of Farmington was lowest of nine bidders at \$28,900 for improvements at the Ford-Wayne intersection in Westland.

How to avoid high winter bills for heating

To avoid high utility bills next winter, Consumers Power is encouraging its gas and electric space-heating customers to sign up for an equal monthly payment plan, according to J.P. Thomas of Plymouth, district manager of the utility's Livonia District.

"By dividing their annual energy bill into 12 equal monthly payments, customers can avoid the high bills like those experienced in the recent severe winter," Thomas said.

"In our region, 30,539 customers were on the equal monthly payment plan (EMPP). We hope that many more will decide to join."

Any Consumers Power customer

using gas for space heating, and who isn't on the monthly plan, will receive a brochure explaining the plan with this month's bill.

"On this month's bill, we will indicate our projection of what the customer's equal monthly payment plan amount would be each month. The bill this month also will show a box in which the customer can make an 'X' to indicate a desire to be put on an equal monthly billing."

Thomas said customers who join the plan now will begin the equal payments in June. The monthly amount is calculated from their usage for the 12 months ending March 1977, adjusted

to reflect normal winter weather, as well as appropriate adjustments for billing rate and fuel cost charges.

In May 1976, each EMPP customer's account will be balanced, and the bill will reflect either a debit or a credit balance. Debits, or amounts due to the company, are running higher than normal this year because of the severe winter, said Thomas.

If a customer doesn't sign up for EMPP in May, but decides to do so later in the year, the monthly amount will be higher because only the total service to be used for the remainder of the June-to-May period will be calculated.

IN OTHER SUBURBAN projects:

*Midwest Bridge Co. of Williamston was lowest of six bidders at \$25,702 for the following deck resurfacing and bridge railing projects: Westbound I-96 over eastbound I-696 in Farmington Hills (a bridge railing will be replaced with a concrete barrier); US-24 over I-75 northeast of Pontiac; and the M-24 connector under M-24 near I-75 northeast of Pontiac (concrete barrier). Completion date is to be July of 1978.

*Interstate Cutting Service of Southfield was lowest of five bidders at

County gets justice grant

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners recently accepted an \$81,750 criminal justice planning grant for the continued support of the seven-year-old Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Oakland County Commissioner Henry W. Hoot (R-Troy), a member of the board's finance committee which endorsed acceptance of the grant, said the administration aids cities and townships in Oakland County file for federal government funding for various criminal justice programs.

The administration also helps local units of government to plan criminal justice programs, Hoot said.

Federal and state funds accounted for 89 per cent, \$72,656, of the total amount of the approved criminal justice planning grant. The remaining amount, \$9,094, was contributed by Oakland County.

The Oakland County contribution was financed by \$5,000 from the 1977 public service-law enforcement administrative assistant budget and \$4,094 from the 1977 contingency fund.

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