

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their offices located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI on July 8, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Boileau, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen

ABSENT: Union President Mills, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Pickford Resident Fredrick Gulick, Trout Lake Township Supervisor David Hillman

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$156,777.70 and Vouchers in the amount of \$313,309.88 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 24, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fred Gulick of Pickford inquired the status of the bridge inspection to his property on Pennington Road. Because of the weight restriction on the bridge, he cannot access his property and has filed for an appeal of his taxes (\$450/acre) on "wetlands" he cannot get to. He requested a copy of the results of the bridge inspection and thanked the road commission for their time. Manager Laitinen reported we are looking into temporary/portable bridge materials and still attempting to communicate with neighboring land owners regarding some of the obstructions to access.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- With the holiday, it's been a quiet couple of weeks. Because the MTF was down and we paid cash for the new durapatch machine, the \$150K transfer to the OPEB trust at Morgan Stanely is on hold for now.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy changing out culverts on Three Mile Road.
- AMZ is working on Nicolet Road.
- Working on Gravel Maintenance.
- Mower has been out on primary roads cutting ditches for better visibility.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Drummond Island project going well.

Clerk Christensen

- Requesting quotes for some outside maintenance work to the main office building.
- Scrap tire collection is going well. The crews have been a huge help to load the tires being dropped off. Three trailers full of tires from Chippewa County have been loaded at this point.
- Working to get signs for work zones.
- Next week will be attending the Part 9 Excavation training with MIOSHA.
- Completed the inventory with the state.
- We had a couple of our trucks in the local parades.

Union President Mills

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- At the last meeting, the board approved an additional AP check for \$1,674.94. This check was voided and will not be issued.
- An invitation has been sent to employees nearing retirement eligibility to attend a MERS webinar to provide education on the steps to retire. The webinar is scheduled for July 27th from noon to 1:00.
- Next week is open enrollment for Blue Cross. Garage visits will be scheduled to complete the paperwork.
- Looked at the fuel adjustment accounting entries with the new fuel system at the Sault Grage. The average adjustment necessary has been less than a 1% over the last 6 months. This can be attributed to temperature fluctuation and indicates a high level of accuracy in accounting for fuel use.
- As a reminder for the next board meeting, the meeting conflicts with the annual meeting for MCRCSIP. The management staff and one commissioner will be absent.

Engineer Boileau

- Finished paving work in Soo Township.

- Smart Road paving complete and driveways should be complete by next week.
- Local bridge inspection completed. Reports should be available by the end of the month.
- The pipe for 20 Mile Road is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday, August 18.
- A consultant is putting together a scope/proposal for traffic study at Rudyard 5-way intersection.
- Meeting with AEG (broadband grant contractor) next week to discuss expectations in our right-of-way.
- Monday will meet with Senate/House Transportation Committee for Work Zone Safety Awareness on i-69 in Flint.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- The new durapatch machine has been delivered. Within a week of signing the purchase agreement the equipment was here. The old machine will serve as a back-up or secondary machine for larger jobs. Discussion ensued.
- The summer projects are progressing well and we have most of our paving complete.
- Next week will begin providing the community information on the save our roads campaign as a guest on local radio shows and at other events.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Township Road Agreement - Trout Lake Township - Wegwas Road/Frenchman Lake Public Access Road (from M-123 to boat launch) - Township share \$21,500.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to sign Trout Lake Township Road Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) Manager Laitinen presented a letter of support for the Sault Tribe in their effort to secure grant funding intended for infrastructure. Discussion ensued.
- C.) Engineer Training Request - Engineer Boileau presented a request to attend the ATSSA 2022 Expo in February. Because of Engineer Boileau's status and activities with ATSSA, Manager Laitinen supported this request and had it presented to the board for approval in compliance with the out of state travel policy.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the travel/training request.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

County Commissioners Comments

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer expressed his concern for the general mess the sub-contractors for Hiawatha Telephone are making while installing fiber optic cable in Brimley. He requested HTC be contacted in an effort to get it cleaned up.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman