

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 March 17, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Boileau, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Union President Cheney, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Foreman Goodman

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$215,516.44 and Vouchers in the amount of \$374,940.14 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 3, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Year End reporting complete for 2021. The year ended with a little more loss than originally projected due to a timing issue with the payment/billing related to a TWA.
- Audit is complete and we are waiting for the OPEB actuarial report and an exit conference can be scheduled.
- Hired a Part-time IT person to assist with installation of the Gasboy System at remote garages. He will also assist in upgrading the camera and DVR system.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy couple of weeks.
- This week working on water problems - steaming culverts and digging ditches.
- Coldpatch out working on potholes.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Same as the Sault. Thank you to the crew for working in the rainstorm two weeks ago.

Engineer Boileau

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk Christensen

- Working on scheduling annual training.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Worked on the State Trunkline historical data for Chippewa County as part of the working being done on the Inflationary Subcommittee.
- Registered both clerks for the CRASIF Workers Compensation certification course. This is a one day course with exam taking place in Frankenmuth the day before the F&HR Conference.
- Appointed by Melissa Williams (chair for F&HR) to lead a mentoring program for new road commission employees. Lisa Powell from Iron County volunteered to assist with finance mentoring. As we develop this, more information will come.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- One of the mechanics, while out on medical leave, found a sander at an auction site in great condition. It's an older sander but in solid condition and the road commission was able to purchase it for a reasonable price.
- Working with Manager Decker on needs for equipment and parts for next winter to have a stock of consumables.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Highway conference went well. Attendance was down from two years ago, but still well attended. Legislative banquet went well. Representative O'Malley (Chair of the Transportation Committee) spoke about the gas tax holiday bill and provided verbal assurances that overall road commission funding would not be negatively impacted (the funding would be back-filled). The Governor has signed a letter supporting a gas tax holiday at the federal level.
- The House passed the Federal Aid buy-out bill. It has been sent to the senate. Discussion ensued.
- Received a note from the liability pool regarding the Michigan catastrophic claims refunds. CCRC is scheduled to receive a refund of approximately \$40k for our 100 trucks insured.

- Seasonal weight restrictions will begin on Monday, March 21, 2022. This year a list of roads exempt from the restriction has been published on our website. Met with Trooper Brown to review restrictions and potential areas of concern.
- Invited to attend a round table discussion on April 8 regarding flood events and the potential for emergency funding needs.
- Had lunch with the Superior Township Supervisor. This may be the first steps to re-establishing a working relationship and addressing some road maintenance/construction needs.
- Starting conversations regarding fuel costs and summer work. Fuel conservation may be necessary to ensure adequate funds available for fall and winter work. **EVERYONE** at the road commission is asked to identify maintenance and/or training activities that need to be done which won't require fuel/heavy equipment use. With next year's National Work Zone Safety Awareness press event taking place in our facility, now is a good time to prepare our site for this level of public exposure.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) State Trunkline Mowing Bid -

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to accept the two low bids (S&S and Little Man Services) and present them to MDOT for decision and award.

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) OPEB Transfer -

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commission Moser to approve the transfer of \$200K to the OPEB Trust account at Morgan Stanley.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Barry Davis, Rudyard Township Supervisor, inquired about the volatility of fuel prices on up-coming road projects. Manager Laitinen assured him that any executed road agreement contracts will be honored. Discussion ensued.
- Keith Erickson invited the board to join the crew at lunch-time of Friday to say good-bye to Larry Young. Larry has been with the road commission for 12 years and will be missed. Manager Laitinen echoed the appreciation for Larry and sense of loss his

retirement brings. The group shared some memories of times Larry stepped in to help wherever he could.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer asked everyone to keep up the good work and stay safe.

MOTION CARRIED

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman