

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 April 14, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M.

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

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Clerk Christensen

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Trout Lake Township Supervisor Dave Hillman, Superior Township Business Owner Randal Heck

Manager Laitinen requested to add "purchase of survey equipment" to the agenda as Item d.)

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to accept the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$190,614.26 and Vouchers in the amount of \$694,893.97 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 31, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Randal Heck, owner of the Brimley Post Office building, approached the Board regarding repair work of the parking lot / drive way approach to the post office building. Mr. Heck informed the board the damage has been caused by a water line leaking, causing erosion and that he received a letter from the Federal Government issuing an order to have it fixed by April 21, 2022. Manager Laitinen addressed the issue, indicating this has been looked at a couple of times in the past and that because this is a private driveway off of Crawford Street, we are not able to resurface or provide repairs. Manager Laitinen committed to visiting the site to inspect nearby drainage areas of our responsibility to ensure proper function. Discussion ensued.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Audit is complete. Need to schedule a closing meeting but waiting on final reports from OPEB actuary.
- Blade order has been submitted. \$160K for 1,000 blades.
- Working on tire ordering with Chief Mechanic Marsh to stock pile a supply for upcoming season.
- March financials nearly complete and will be provided next week.
- Working with new IT person on fuel systems in an effort to make the system web-based for easier access when off-site.
- Still working to identify a reliable internet source for Drummond Island at a reasonable cost. This is needed for the fuel system.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- Started blading gravel roads.
- Still dealing with water issues.

Foreman Rye

- Same as Rudyard.

Engineer Boileau

- Report will be covered under new business.

Clerk Christensen

- No Report.

Union President Cheney

- Inquired status of winter temp employees and possibility of continued employment. Manager Laitinen praised the temps hired this season and indicated they worked well. Due to the uncertainty of economy and funding right now, none of them will be hired on full-time. Manager Laitinen recognized that not hiring now risks the availability of the temps to accept any future employment opportunities with the Road Commission, but too many uncertainties now could create greater hardships for the temps later.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Working to schedule Reasonable Suspicion training for foremen and others who have not attended in the past. Training will likely be in June.
- Working to identify a date in May to have the reps from AFLAC and Empower on site to advise and enroll employees in respective benefit plans.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- In planning for future needs, tires have been purchased for the next 12 months with the exception of some specialty ones.
- Supply delivery timing is still an issue.
- Working on repair lists for the entire fleet.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Attended CRA financial crisis round table discussion. Good event with good representation from related agencies. Discussion ensued.
- Getting some information from water shed groups. Been contacted by Huron Pines and Soil Conservation regarding work in 2023 at the Munuscong crossings.
- Approached by email regarding a possible leasing of space for a T-Mobile tower at the Eckerman Garage.
- Johnson Brothers contracting has completed the salt barn in Goetzville. Waiting for the final inspection.
- Starting to set the agenda for the Summer Road Builders meeting. Open for topic suggestions.
- Big News! Received verbal confirmation, waiting on written, that we are the recipient of a federal lands access grant for work at Chub Creek in the amount of \$3M. Thank you and congratulations to Engineer Boileau for the work put into this endeavor.
- Checked in with the National Guard while they were doing a mock chemical spill training in the Kinross pit. Their training went well.
- Congratulations to Engineer Boileau as a speaker at the Work Zone Awareness event earlier this week.
- Received resignation notice from Josh Mills at the Eckerman garage. Well Wishes. Brian Mills will be retiring from that garage in May.
- The crews will be moving to four 10's on Monday, April 25th.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Authorization for one-time ACH payment in the amount \$177,300.94 to the State of Michigan Treasury as replacement for 2 lost checks issued in December 2021.

Office Manager Decker explained how the process of voiding the checks in the accounting software would require restating the financial statements after a completed audit. The unprocessed payments to the state were discovered during the routine reconciliation of the accounts payable checking account. This method of payment allows for the checks to be paid to the state, the outstanding payments to clear the account, and the financial statements to stay in-tact, while keeping transparency in the transaction.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Chairman Timmer and Manager Laitinen to sign the authorization for this one-time payment.

MOTION CARRIED

B.) Bid Awards

- i. Award MDOT / TWA Culvert Replacement M-123 - Manager Laitinen explained this is the culvert South of Trout Lake and North of the Mackinac County Line. The bid was let late last year with no bids received. Manager Laitinen recommended Bacco be awarded the bid as the low-bidder.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award Bacco as low bid the Culvert Replacement on M-123, pending MDOT approval.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii. 2022 CCRC Local Paving Package #1 - it was recommended Payne and Dolan as lower bidder be awarded the project.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to accept and award bid to Payne and Dolan as the low-bidder.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii. Six Mile Road Sub-consultant inspection - Engineer Boileau explained how the Six Mile Road project will be utilizing a new pilot spec asphalt. This will require quality assurance work through the paving process which includes field and lab services. The data collected from this service will be used to support future use of this new spec. Engineer Boileau recommended awarding the project to SME as low-bidder.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the sub-consultant inspection bid to SME.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis inquired about work on Centerline and Ploegstra Roads.

- Trout Lake Township Supervisor Dave Hillman inquired about interactions with AEG and the fiberoptic lines being installed. Manager Laitinen indicated interactions with the company have been positive.
- Supervisor Hillman also requested an increase to the Road Commissions contribution to the brining cost share due to experienced increases in costs to the township. Manager Laitinen expressed sympathy to the concern and noted it can be looked at, but also reminded the township supervisor that rising costs are a concern for all parties.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer thanked everyone and asked they stay safe.

MOTION CARRIED

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman