

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 June 24, 2021.

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 Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Union President Mills

GUEST PRESENT: Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore

Engineer Boileau requested the 20 Mile Culvert bid be added under item g.) to the agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$159,853.78 plus an additional \$100 for a voucher error from 05/13/2021 (\$159,953.78) and Vouchers in the amount of \$316,137.42 plus an additional \$1,674.94 (\$317,812.36) for a bill received with a short due date 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 10, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Continuing to work on site preparation for the new fuel tanks at Eckerman and Pickford. Running into issues with bollard post costs and placement. DEQ has brought to our attention an issue with spacing. Will have more updates as we continue to move forward. Still on track for mid-July to take delivery of the tanks.

Superintendent Erickson

- Crews have been busy.
- Thanked the crew and brought to the attention of the board the dedication and commitment of the crew. The past couple of weeks were spent changing a major culvert on Hay Point Road located on

Sugar Island. The dry weather last week allowed them to get a good start on the change out. Because the weather was expected to change to a stretch of rain, several employees changed vacation plans and volunteered to work overtime before the weather could impede the progress. This level of commitment is appreciated by the road commission and is sometimes forgotten by the community.

- The AMZ machine has been out patching. Gotten a lot of area covered, especially on Three Mile Road.

Foreman Goodman

- Got a good start on Prairie Road. There is about a mile left to finish.
- Out blading and patching roads.
- Started mowing shoulders.

Foreman Rye

- Drummond Island project going well.

Clerk Christensen

- In conjunction with the city we are advertising the scrap tire collection. So far it has been well received and within a couple of days, the first trailer at the Sault Garage was filled. It will be at the Eckerman Garage next week and then returning to the Sault after that.
- Attended the Reasonable Suspicion training last week.
- This week attended the High Vis and Traffic Control training provided by ATSSA. This training was provided through a grant opportunity identified by Engineer Boileau.
- We are looking into grant opportunities for Traffic Control Supervisor training.
- Looking into ways to work with local drivers education classes to have a couple of our truck drivers and local motor carrier law enforcement provide some supplemental drivers education and awareness around topics like large vehicle blind spots, safety concerns when passing "working" vehicles, and how to safely maneuver a marked work zone. Many young drivers seem unaware of the dangers involved in sharing the road with large trucks, especially plow trucks in the winter.
- Last week we received an email requesting more information for the fuel efficiency truck replacement grant. Worked with the Chief Mechanic to gather the requested information.
- A couple of trucks will be in parades in Brimley, Sault Ste. Marie, and Drummond Island. Truck 739 will be in the St. Ignace truck show. The driver of that truck has put a significant amount of time and effort into the appearance of the truck.

Union President Mills

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended the Reasonable Suspicion, High Vis, and Traffic Control trainings.
- Paid a visit to the driver who was in the accident on M123 last year. Provided him with some additional information and checked in on him.
- Received a lengthy request for information. Working with the liability pool attorney on how to proceed with gathering the volume of materials requested and complying with FOIA regulations.
- Reminded all supervisors to ensure all time is entered and approved prior to the holiday weekend to ensure everyone is paid correctly with the shortened work week coinciding with a pay date.

Engineer Boileau - report provided by Engineering Intern

- Working on Asset Management System. Last year located all the culverts (just over 2,000). This year locating bridges and signs and entering the GPS coordinates into Road Soft. Started in the Sault and worked west and a little south.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The air compressor has been delivered and should be installed the week after the holiday.
- The forestry grinder for the excavator will ship soon.
- The shop has been busy working on trailers and tarps. Due to their age they are worn.
- Delivery timing is still a challenge when we need parts.
- Leelanau County Road Commission has a sander for sale that we will be purchasing. They are asking \$2,000. This is a really good price for a slightly used sander.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Received notice from CRASIF reporting MIOSHA has rescinded all work place restrictions (with a few exceptions by industry) related to COVID-19. This long awaited news is welcomed as we can now return to normal operations.
- We started to see in-person meetings start to be announced. With MIOSHA's announcement, we anticipate the announcement of more of the annual meetings to come.
- Will be attending the MTA meeting at Kinross Hall with Engineer Boileau.
- There is a Negotiating Committee meeting on the 21st in conjunction with the MCRCSIP annual meeting.
- Attended the Reasonable Suspicion training. All supervisory staff are required to have this training once in their employment life with an employer.
- Contacted by Huron Pines regarding an EUP watershed study. They will be looking at any watershed with an outlet into Lake Huron.

- Keeping an eye on a couple of House and Senate bills. HB 4523 and 4524 may separate rail grade funding. SB 256 could transfer \$18M of sales tax funding to the Secretary of State. HB 5002 affects dam safety funds.
- Spent time on Drummond Island meeting with the new manager from Carmeuse. Carmeuse will provide the road commission access to the waste stone and overburden. This will provide a savings on road materials for the road commission.
- The liability case related to the accident on Riverside Drive has been settled.
- Received the proposed easement for Dix Point Road.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Township Road Agreement - Nicolet Road from Riverside Drive to 5 Mile Road and 4 Mile Road between Riverside and Nicolet. Township share \$53,357.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) 2021/22 Fuel and Oil Bid. Shute Oil and Autore Oil provided bids for their respective service areas. No other fuel bids were received.

Multiple oil/grease bids were received. Manager Laitinen recommended the oil bid be awarded to Northern Energy based on the bid price of the oils typically consumed at the highest volume and not break out the bid award by type.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the fuel bid to Shute Oil and Autore Oil for their respective areas.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the oil/grease bid to Northern Energy

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Bond Insurance for Road Commissioners:

Office Manager Decker gave a brief report on the old requirement of PA283 where road commissions are required to hold a bond for road commissioners. Historically that bond has been for \$10,000. A couple of years ago, MCRCSIP started including this type on insurance on road commissioners and office staff. This information was provided to the County Commission for review and the County Board will allow the Road Commission to drop the independent bond, utilizing the insurance provided by the liability pool. No Action Needed.

D.) MCRC SIP Annual Meeting - the Annual Meeting of the Liability Pool will be hosted at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant. Educational meetings will begin on Wednesday July 21st with the business meeting and results of the Board of Director's Election on Thursday, July 22. Commissioners are invited to attend.

E.) Our dura-patch operator was sent to see a demonstration on some new equipment. Our current AMZ machine is nearing the end of its useful life. We are late enough into the year, making a couple of previously approved capital outlay purchases wouldn't provide the level of benefit desired. Manager Laitinen recommended pushing a couple of the budgeted outlay items until next year and to purchase a new Dura-patch machine from Alta Equipment in the amount of \$77,110, with delivery as early as next week.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to purchase a new Dura-patch machine from Alta Equipment in the amount of \$77,110.

MOTION CARRIED

F.) OPEB Trust Transfer - Office Manager Decker recommended a transfer of \$150K to the OPEB Trust account at Morgan Stanley.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to transfer \$150K to the trust account at Morgan Stanley.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

County Commissioners Comments

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore expressed his township's appreciation for the scrap tire initiative, indicating that while they have a lot more to clean up, the ability to rid the township of this type of debris makes everything look better.

Supervisor Moore gave an update on the closure of M-80 for a water main leak that had gone undetected for some time.

Supervisor Moore invited everyone to a fundraising event being held on Friday, June 25, 2021 for a woman who works at the Soo Coop who has recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer expressed his gratitude for the crews' hard work and dedication, indicating it is always good to hear about their commitment. He then asked everyone to stay safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman