

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 October 28, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 7:59 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, Union President Mills, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: None

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis and 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 \$155,517.70 and Vouchers in the amount of \$602,429.67 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that, as a clerical correction to the motion made to approve vouchers, an additional \$77,716.05 in Vouchers from October 14, 2021 be recognized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit. The error was in the amount stated on the agenda. All documents presented and signed by the board had the correct amount, the error was in the agenda only.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 14, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Have the Pickford fuel tank communicating with the office. Should be up and running tomorrow.
- Boiler install in the main office is complete. Albert's Heating did a great job and the new unit looks good.
- Had a gas line issue with DTE. Our main office gas line ran under the sidewalk of the enclosed walkway and was not compliant with DTE specifications. The meter has been moved and new lines installed. Because of the length of time it took DTE to recognize the issue, DTE paid to have the new line installed.
- Looking into GPS upgrades with Clerk Christensen through Firstnet.
- 3rd Quarter financials are complete. Will schedule a special meeting for next week to review.
- Notice for sealed bids for surplus equipment will go out by tomorrow.

Superintendent Erickson

- Snow staking.
- Getting state trucks ready for winter work.
- Hauling ice-sand.

- Salt delivered to Kinross.
- Gravel road maintenance and cold patching.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as Sault.
- Still fighting beavers.
- Getting gravel roads ready for winter.

Foreman Rye

- Same as others.
- Still widening/brushing M48 in Goetzville area.

Engineer Boileau

- Safety Shout-out to Eckerman crew out snow staking M-123. Did a great job keeping it safe.
- MDOT here today to look at Six Mile overpass and foot traffic in that area with the Amish school. Also going to DeTour Village to with Pete Paramski from EUPTA to assess the ferry congestion. Discussion ensued.
- All hands working to get all of next year's projects out to MDOT for bidding packages.
- EGLE update on excavating Paradise site. EGLE is in the process of boring/excavating to see what is buried at the site. The test site is approximately 10'x10' and between 6' and 9' deep. So far no major findings.

Clerk Christensen

- The scrap tire initiative is done for this year. Will be able to share some statistics and volumes at the next meeting.
- Attended the Michigan Township Association (MTA) meeting with Manager Laitinen to discuss the success of the scrap tire grant and possible collaborative work to include EGLE, CCRC, and townships in the future. The township supervisors agreed to submit a letter to the county commission on behalf of the road commission to request funding reimbursement of expenses not covered by the grant.

Union President Mills

- All good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended the UP Clerks meeting in Munising. Provided an on-boarding presentation to all as we are all gearing up to hire winter temps. This served as a reminder of all the processes to hire.
- Getting payroll set up to change over from 10 hour days to 8 hour days.
- Got a call last week from the Superior Township Clerk. There has been a rash of signs being removed/stolen in that area.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop is busy. Parts supply chain is still an issue.
- Getting ready for winter.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended the managers meeting in St. Ignace to go over the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Burt Thompson has put a significant amount of time into researching the acceptable uses of these funds. They can be used for infrastructure related to water, sewer, and broadband OR lost revenue for ancillary units of county government. Road commissions are considered ancillary units. Will continue working with the county administrator to identify potential avenues for funding/revenue reimbursement.
- Applications for our winter temp positions are being accepted until Friday.

- Working with the Barbeau area businesses, DNR, and local snowmobile association to identify areas to add to the trail system and give those recreation vehicles space away from roadways.
- Night operations starts this weekend.
- Construction of the Goetzville salt barn is on track.
- Salt deliveries came early this year and the order was short by approximately 1,200 tons. Working with MDOT and Detroit Salt to correct, but may not see the remaining order until later this winter.
- Held a wetland banking meeting to hire a new manager.
- Attended JATC meeting. Nothing to report.
- Had an informal meeting with Representative Damoose in the office. He had some good insight and information on some supplemental bills.
- Working to get endowment and sponsor for the site on Neebish Island.
- Working to find a rental loader for the Kinross salt barn. There are no loaders to be found in Michigan. Because of supply chain issues, none of the local dealers want to rent a unit and risk losing a sale.
- The MTA meeting was a good meeting. The scrap tire initiative was a great benefit to the county. EGLE has reached out to us regarding future recycling initiatives and our discussion at the MTA meeting was around ways to collaborate.
- Received an offer from the Hank Family Trust to sell to the road commission 16 acres of land adjacent to the Goetzville garage. Discussion ensued.
- Rural Task Force will meet today at the CCRC office.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

County Commissioners Comments

- NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Trout Lake Township Supervisor David Hillman inquired about any foreseen issues regarding the Straits Area Snowmobile club. Manager Laitinen was not aware of any.
- Chippewa Township Supervisor Brian Mills inquired regarding the snowmobile association attaching the orange trail markers to county signs. Manager Laitinen indicated the markers must go on the association's posts and that those posts should be removed at the end of the season.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer reminded everyone to be safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman