

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 4, 2021.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon (via ZOOM), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Foreman Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Commissioner Ormsbee, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Barron and Superintendent of Pickford Public School Angela Nettleton

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that Payroll in the amount of \$179,339.30 and Vouchers in the amount of \$192,197.37 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 18, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None at this time.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- The annual audit with Anderson Tackman is complete.
- Working on equipment rental rates.
- Beginning the process to put a millage renewal on the ballot and should have the resolution prepared for the next meeting. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Erickson

- No report.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Fighting the wind and starting to see some water issues develop.

Clerk Christensen

- Working with Kelly Church at the County Office on a COVID related MEDC grant.
- Working with Tracey Laitinen, Soo EDC Operations Manager, on a tire grant through EGLE.
- Working on the logistics for the upcoming chainsaw training, scheduled for April 12 through April 15.
- In working with the Auditors last week, we identified some area where we can improve our record keeping.
- Working on setting up the MSHA training.

Union President Mills

- Nothing new.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Submitted a letter of interest to serve on the CRASIF Board of Trustees. Mary Scholander has announced her retirement, leaving now three open positions (a UP position, an at-large, and a northern).
- Received the 4th quarter and annual MERS statement of Fiduciary Net Position.
 - 1st Quarter had nearly a \$1.3M loss.
 - Quarters 2 through 4 saw nearly \$2.5M in gains to end the year with a total gain of nearly \$1.3M.
 - Our return rate was just over 12% for the year, ending the year with a balance greater than our beginning balance.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop is busy with lots of emissions related problems.
- Working on capital outlay items.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Received a special tribute from State Representative John Damoose thanking and recognizing Road Commission employees for their work and dedication.
- The widow of the flagman lost on the job in Iron County sent a thank you note to everyone at the Road Commission for their donation and thoughtfulness during this difficult time.
- Beginning on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, the seasonal weight restrictions will go in affect. Permitting calls have started to come in anticipation of the restrictions. We are working to get these in place.
- Received the renewal notice for license at the Neebish Island Ferry dock. Looking to the Corp of Engineers for explanation of the increase cost of the five year license.
- Experienced a significant storm on Monday. A combination of 50+ mph winds and a little fresh snow on a frozen crust resulted in severely limited visibility issues on open areas, causing a

closure of M-28 and a couple of county roads. An inter-agency communication breakdown involving the Road Commission, Central Dispatch, Chippewa County Sherriff, and MDOT occurred. All agencies will be invited by email to meet in an effort to improve communication in the future.

- Invited to participate in Charlotte River watershed planning group.
- Received invitation to participate in the Tahquamenon River watershed planning and inventory group.
- Traveled to Gaylord to receive APAM awards in excellence for Curley Lewis Highway and Gaines Highway projects.
- Contacted by the president of UP Road Builders. The summer meeting has been canceled.
- Signed agreement with Gary Nitz to create the design plans for the Goetzville salt barn. This structure will be nearly identical to the ones he has on file from past work, the exception being the length of the building. Because changes to existing plans will be minimal, costs associated with the design are minimal.
- Discovered we have 2021 bridge funding available for two (2) structures in Pickford (\$150K per structure). Due to the timing of the discovery and turnover in the organization, we were able to get this deferred until 2022.
- Made an employment offer to an engineer. Waiting to hear back.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Capital Outlay Purchases -
 - i. Chief Mechanic Marsh presented specifications, costs, and delivery timing for new Massey Ferguson 5711S Brush Hog Tractor with a price of \$134,117.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the purchase of the Massey Ferguson Brush Hog tractor as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) Resolution 2021-02 - MDOT Contract #20-5565 Shunk Road Resurfacing.

Manager Laitinen presented the Contract 20-5565 with MDOT for work along Shunk Road from 5 Mile Road to 9 Mile Road.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to sign the MDOT Contract #20-5565 and approve Resolution 2021-02.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- C.) Resolution 2021-03 Abandonment of a portion of Pleasant Street in Pickford.

Manager Laitinen presented a request to abandon a portion of Pleasant Street in Pickford. To change the traffic flow in and around the school, Pickford School has requested the abandonment of the section. This request came with the support of the township board and all necessary signatures have been collected by the school board. With this level of support, a public hearing is not necessary to grant the request.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve resolution 2021-03 and grant the abandonment.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

D.) CRA Commissioner Code of Conduct -

Clerk Livermore presented the board with a draft of the Commissioners Code of Conduct, indicating the document incorporates the characteristics and duties the CRA Commissioners Committee had written, removes items governed by employment laws, and adds reference to and some information from the MCRCSIP Employment Practices Guidelines, which was adopted by CCRC on June 23, 2003.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to adopt the presented Commissioner Code of Conduct as a new policy.

MOTION CARREID

- E.) Review/Reaffirm Policies:
- i. Policy #9 - Drug Free Workplace Policy
 - ii. Policy #10 - Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to reaffirm Policy #9 and Policy #10.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Barron reported having met with Representative Damoose last week, indicating the representative is interested in spending a day this spring touring the county and looking at roads. Manager Laitinen offered to assist in the tour, indicating he knew of some interesting sites as they relate to roads. Commissioner Barron will set up a day for the representative to be in the UP and inquire about adding a guest to the tour.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Gagnon requested a invitation to be included in the MSHA training this spring.

Chairman Timmer extended his gratitude to everyone involved in the content of materials presented at today's meeting. He is proud to serve as chairman for an organization with talent and expertise held in the staff of the road commission.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman