

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 14, 2021.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Union President Mills

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 \$155,391.03 and Vouchers in the amount of \$446,841.97 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 September 30, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Both fuel systems for Pickford and Eckerman have been started. The installation with Gas Boy has been delayed due to COVID, but we have been working with the electrician to ensure the sites are ready when the time comes.
- The computers went down in the Pickford Garage due to an error at CenturyTel.
- Work on the boiler system in the Main Office has begun and a new pump was installed to the heat system for the shop.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Catching up on issues caused by beavers.
- Grader on Drummond Island, retrieving shoulders.
- Working on M-48 with the brushing machine.

Clerk Christensen

- Will be attending the MTA meeting tonight to discuss future collaboration in projects like our current scrap tire recycling program.
- Due to COVID concerns, the traffic control training that was scheduled for this week has been canceled. We will try to reschedule for another time.

Union President Mills

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended the MERS Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. They put together a great conference with some really good content.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Working with Office Manager Decker to be mindful of expenditures and only ordering what we need and not stocking for future needs as done in the past.
- The Peterbilt rep is here completing recall repairs on 25 of our units.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- We've experienced an up-tick in COVID infections in our facilities. We are monitoring closely and ensuring protocols are being followed. Some of our cases were break-through cases and mimic the symptoms of a head cold.
- Attended the MERS meeting and brought Union President Mills to this year's conference. Overall, this year's performance looks good. This is the first time since 2008 we have seen the smoothed rate exceed the actuarial assumption rate of return.
- Attended the General Policy/CRA Board meeting in Lansing. Reported on the JATC committee meeting.
- Met with Senator Schmidt while in Lansing.
- Received information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funding available to counties and municipalities. Revenue replacement to ancillary units of government is an acceptable use of these funds and will be revisiting this topic with the county administrator.
- Will be meeting with MDOT to discuss safety regarding the foot traffic on the Six Mile overpass.
- Working with Bay Mills Indian Community on possible improvements on Six Mile Road, including lane improvements on the bridge, replacement of the rail road trestle, and the possibility of creating an interchange.
- The Bay Mills Tribe is working with Bureau of Indian Affairs to secure the 50% funding commitment for the Six Mile Road bridge replacement. Construction for this is slated to begin next summer.
- Crews will go back to eight hour days on Monday October 25th.
- Salt delivery for this winter season has begun. Our Eckerman facility is full.
- The Goetzville salt barn construction is moving along and on schedule.
- An ad for winter temporary employees will be going out in the next few days.
- The Sign Foreman position has been posted. We will have some overlap in this position until spring as we train the replacement. This will likely open a plow route here.
- Working with the Ship Wreck Society on plan reviews. The materials received to date from their consultant are in need of improvement.
- Otsego County Road Commission has suffered a sudden loss of their finance director due to COVID. Our condolences to their staff.
- The next Rural Task Force meeting is on October 28th at 1:00 p.m.
- Straits Area Council will meet on November 2.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

County Commissioners Comments

- NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Trout Lake Township Supervisor David Hillman inquired about any foreseen issues or potential damage to roadways with the upcoming installation of fiber in his area. Manager Laitinen expressed our concern due to issues caused in other areas, and assured him we would be monitoring as we issue the Right-of-Way permits for this work and have the ability to revoke a permit if the contractors operate outside of the permit. Discussion ensued.
- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis inquired about the paving of Bay Road and the likelihood of it being completed this year. Manager Laitinen indicated the contractor is hopeful for a late season completion, but cannot guarantee it.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer reminded everyone to be safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman