

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 August 19, 2021.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Union President Mills, .

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Foreman Rye

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Erik Baron, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Trout Lake Township Supervisor David Hillman, EGLE Representative Mitch Koetje, and Dave Deatrck

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$159,076.43 and Vouchers in the amount of \$735,467.21 plus an additional voucher in the amount of \$45,000 (**total vouchers \$780,467.21**) for the purchase of the hydro seeder as approved at the August 5, 2021 meeting 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 August 5, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Davis, Rudyard Township Supervisor, inquired about the policy regarding service on seasonal roads with full time residents. Manager Laitinen explained there is a considerable amount of misinformation. Residents and buyers are being given the impression that moving onto a seasonal road will change a road's designation and work prioritization. There is a policy/procedure to request the designation of seasonal be removed which requires a cost share agreement at the township level. Specific maintenance requests will be considered on a cost by cost basis.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Eckerman tank is in place. Thank you to the Eckerman crew for the excellent work and assistance in getting the area prepared and the tank placed.

- Hopeful the Pickford tank will be installed this coming week and that both tanks and systems will be operational by the end of September.

Superintendent Erickson

- Finishing up the lift on South West Shore on Sugar Island.
- Roadside mowing is wrapping up.
- AMZ crew is working with the new machine on Three Mile Road, closing small sections as they go for safety.
- Fixed some washouts from the storm last week and completing some maintenance.

Foreman Goodman

- New brush-hog out running.
- Finishing the final touches on Prairie Road.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Worked with Johnson Controls to finish the replacement of fire extinguishers in the trucks and verify none have been missed.
- Met with CET, the educational portion of MIOSHA at the 20 Mile culvert replacement. Overall they were impressed, but we have a couple of action items to take care of.
- Met via ZOOM with EGLE and Dickinson county regarding additional recycling projects similar to the scrap tire initiative. Looking for additional ways to collaborate.

Union President Mills

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Dave Deatruck will be here over the next few weeks to assist in closing out some aged projects and train staff in field manager.
- Prairie Road looks really good.
- Cream City Point - the crew did a nice job.
- West Shore is progressing well.

- Photos of the stream crossing at 20 Mile Road will be provided at the next meeting.
- Thank you to Vic Libby for allowing our crew to stage equipment on his adjacent land to the project. Thank you to Jan Coullard for allowing our crew to create a temporary roadway across her hay field. Their generosity has created a safer work environment for our crew. We appreciate their kindness.
- The 20 Mile project is giving the crew some training and experience in the application of coffer dams.
- We received the certified election results. The yes votes to the millage renewal was well distributed around the county.
- MDOT has contacted us regarding more sub-contract work for some slope stabilization at a large I-75 culvert.
- Thank you to the crew who stayed last week to help with storm clean-up. It was a fast moving storm that did a lot of tree and structure damage in a short amount of time.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Resolution 2021-10: MDOT Contract #21-5326 - 6 Mile Road over Waiska River Culvert. Manager Laitinen recommended the contract be signed, however advised the board that currently 50% of the funding for the project has been secured with anticipation that BIA will fund the remaining 50% (approximately \$500k), but that a commitment to this has not been secured, putting the Road Commission at risk of having to cover the unsecured portion. Manager Laitinen advised the board that not signing the contract also risks the loss of the allocated funding.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to sign MDOT Contract #21-5326.

MOTION CARRIED by Unanimous Roll Call Vote

- B.) Propane Bid award - Manager Laitinen recommended the bid be awarded to low bidder, Webster Garner at \$1.249 and that all other bids be accepted. Office Manager Decker pointed out the price increased 37 cents from last year's price of \$0.879.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the propane bid to Webster Garner and accept all other bids.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Goetzville Salt Barn Bid - Manager Laitinen recommended Johnson Brothers be awarded the contract for the construction of the Goetzville Salt Barn based on low bid of \$763,400. This is below MDOT's budgeted amount of \$850,000. The company has constructed numerous buildings of this design and are able to be cost effective and efficient.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the Salt Barn Bid to Johnson Brothers.

MOTION CARRIED

- D.) EGLE representative address to the Board - Mitch Koetje addressed the board regarding his work with our crews and the Soil Erosion Control program with EGLE oversight. He commented that it has been a good experience working with CCRC and that we've gone through a compliance process to correct some issues, noting the road commission has completely changed methods and improved their process. He noted he has a great working relationship with the crew. EGLE appreciates the work being done and will be providing CCRC with a program approval letter soon. This is the first time since 2003 CCRC has received this type of recognition from EGLE. Thank you for all your effort.

Mr. Koetje also informed the group of potential tri-county water shed grant opportunities and will provide more information to us at a later time.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chairman Timmer informed the board that CRA has published some revised lost revenue numbers. The original information was lacking some of the MDOT contract numbers. There is no identified time frame for the release of funding to cover this lost revenue.

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Baron informed the board that the request for ARP funds has been received by the county but that those funds will not be released in the near future due to the number of federal restrictions placed on the funds. The county wants to ensure all fund request amounts are qualified before they release any money. Not doing so could jeopardize the entire amount and require released funds to be returned.
- Kelly Church has been appointed to the County Administrator position and will be replacing Jim German.
- Commissioner Baron wanted the Road Commission to be aware of SB576 as it could affect ferry service in the winter. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Foreman Goodman informed the group that the County Fair will be September 1-6 and he will be on vacation that week.
- Township Supervisor Barry Davis thanked the crew for the work on Prairie Road.
- Foreman Mills informed the Road Commission that on his way from Eckerman to the meeting he observed an unsafe utility work zone

on Six Mile Road. Manager Laitinen indicated the utility company will be informed of this and work to get it corrected.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer expressed his appreciation for everything we do. Be Safe!

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman