

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 May 25, 2023.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Trout Lake Trustee Dave Hillman, Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore, Trout Lake Resident Jerry Ball.

Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda, item 10e - used pickup purchase.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to accept the agenda with the addition of item 10e.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$175,352.84 and Vouchers in the amount of \$326,914.98 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 11, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Moore, Kinross Township Supervisor, commented that the modular housing units are moving into the Kinross area. This will provide temporary housing during the Lock Project.

Jerry Ball, Trout Lake Resident, inquired about rumors regarding work to be done on Molly Gibson Road. Manager Laitinen responded that the Road Commission is compiling information for a cost-share Township Road Agreement, but nothing has been committed to at this time for that road.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Audit is done and scheduling the exit interview is on the agenda.
- Act 51 is almost complete. The asset management portion is left to complete.

Superintendent Erickson

- Working on 11 Mile.
- Shoulder work, cold patching, and changing out culverts.
- Some state guardrail repairs.

Foreman Goodman

- Changing failing/failed culverts - 3 in Rudyard, 2 in Brimley, headed to Trout Lake next.
- Gravel roads are shaping up.
- Still working on some ditching and drainage issues.
- Brush-hog moving into Trout Lake next.

Foreman Rye

- Stumping and shoulder work on Peasley.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report

Clerk Christensen

- Attended F&HR Conference and catching up from being away.
- MSHA certificates are ready and need to be signed by employees and returned.
- Working on inventories.
- Snow Stake request for quotes is out.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Received no bids for the construction of proposed new south wall and garage doors. Went to Builders Exchange to re-bid.
- Working on a Fire Pre-Plan with the local fire departments to provide them with building plans for each facility so they know up-front in the event of an emergency what to expect.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended F&HR Conference. Good conference with good material. Thank you to everyone for helping get the payroll done early to allow for attendance.
- Working on the agenda for the UP Road Builders Clerks meeting and presentation for the group.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Finishing up spring equipment maintenance.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended the Rural Task Force meeting. Luce County chairs the committee and Engineer Boileau is now vice-chair. There is no bid savings on our portion of the RTF funding.
- Next week, Bay Mills Tribe and Coleman will be doing wetland delineation on Three Mile Road.
- The Insurance Pool has issued a motion for summary disposition regarding the mailbox case against us. Initially it looked like the plaintiff was going to withdraw the filing, but he has since hired an attorney and it looks like it will be going to court.
- Working with Bay Mills Tribe and Bill Karr regarding a ROW issue.
- Norris patched the washout at 15 Mile Road. Never easy to match the patch to the original pavement, but it looks pretty good.
- The Whitefish Point Job is underway and going well. A change to the construction methodology was necessary to avoid a major quantity overage. Engineer Boileau and the contractor worked out a plan to crush and shape the existing material as a means to correct the error and recycle the existing material while reducing the potential overage cost to the project.
- The Road Commission is working with MDOT on two contracts. One is the M-48 Culvert Replacement. The other contract will be for shoulder work on M-123 in Mackinac County since that county does not have an MDOT contract and we are better suited to deliver this work than MDOT direct forces.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Schedule Audit Exit Meeting - The exit meeting will be scheduled for immediately following the regular board meeting on June 22, 2023.
- B.) USDA Nuisance Contract - Manager Laitinen provided information regarding a large USDA, statewide program for dealing with beaver nuisance. In the past, the CCRC has hired trappers to help manage the water issues on roadways caused by beavers. This new program is a contractual agreement with the USDA, with a cap at \$10,000 in cost to the road commission, putting the responsibility for trapping, dam removal, administrative burdens, and coordination with other state agencies with the USDA. The USDA requests that if we continue to contract with other individuals to trap that we do not allow for overlap of coverage areas.

MOTION by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Laitinen to enter a one (1) year contract with the USDA for the purposes of nuisance control.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Quit Claim Deed - Bay Mills Tribe/Bay Mart Parcel. Manager Laitinen provided some historical information regarding the footprint of the Bay Mills gas station (Bay Mart) and its alignment on Lake Shore. There is 2/10 of an acre belonging to CCRC in the old ROW. Since the construction work and realignment of the road, the 2/10 of an acre is no longer needed and is considered excess ROW. Bay Mills Tribe wants to do improvement work on the site but wants ownership of this parcel before work is done.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Chairman Gagnon to sign Quit Claim Deed and convey the parcel to the Bay Mills Tribe for one dollar (\$1.00).

MOTION CARRIED

- D.) Bid Awards -
 - i. Fuel Bid - Autore Oil and Shute Oil were the only vendors to provide bids for fuel, each bidding their respective areas.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- ii. Oil Bid - Oil bids were received from Autore, Northern Energy, Shute Oil, and John Smart. Shute Oil's bid did not have the required certification letter as was deemed not meeting bid specifications. While the bid price on several products was slightly higher than other bids, the recognized low bid on 5w40 drum price posed a significant overall bid savings when calculated against past usage quantities. It was the recommendation of Office Manager Decker to accept Northern Energy's bid for all products.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the oil bid to Northern Energy.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii. Garage Door - two bids were received for the replacement of overhead garage doors in the Sault Garage. North Country Garage Doors provided the low bid at \$33,245.77. The bid was significantly lower than the bid received from Overhead Door Co. Details supporting the bid have been requested to ensure bid meets specifications.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept all bids and award to low bidder provided the bid meets specifications.

MOTION CARREID

- iv. Used Pickup Purchase - the addition of the fleet manager is necessitating the need for an additional pick-up. Upon inspection of the Colorado Pickup, some frame repair issues have been discovered. It has been determined this vehicle will be sold as surplus. A 2019 Dodge Ram ½ Ton pickup is available at O'Connor's with a warranty.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to purchase used 2019 pickup with warranty from O'Connor's.

MOTION CARREID

- v. Award Gravel Crushing Bid - Manager Laitinen recommended the bid be awarded to the low bidder but all bids be accepted.
- vi.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the gravel crushing bid to Brow Crushing but accept all bids to ensure gravel is available when needed.

MOTION CARREID

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- Jim Traynor reported the sale of the hospital is moving forward.
- Drawings for the new Sheriff building are being done and a search for a location will begin.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Manager Laitinen presented information regarding the removal of deer carcasses from the roadway. The DNR has issued new rules on what to do with deer that get struck on the roadways. One recommendation of the DNR is to remove the carcass and dispose in an approved disposal site. For Chippewa County, an approved site would be a landfill, at the road commission's expense. The other option is to pull the carcass out of the travel path (90 degrees) and leave to decompose where it lies. The new guidance forbids removing the carcass and disposing in gravel pits or other vacant land owned by the road commission. At this time, deer killed on roadways maintained by the road commission will be pulled out of the lane and left to decompose where it lies.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman