

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 13, 2022.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Union President Cheney, Clerk Christensen, Clerk Livermore, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson.

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Trout Lake Township Clerk Dave Hillman, Resident Dale Hoornstra, and Resident John Ockenfels.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$152,673.47 and Vouchers in the amount of \$77,401.51 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the regular meeting minutes from September 29, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Ockenfels presented photos of his property and copies of letters sent to the Road Commission regarding erosion to his property that he claims is caused by water runoff from Nicolet Road. Manager Laitinen presented some history on the ditches in the area and work that has been done to reduce runoff, noting vessel passage in the river causing the water to rush in and out was the greater factor in the erosion issue. Manager Laitinen noted that Mr. Ockenfels was presented with a response more than a year ago indicating the water issue was not caused by or the responsibility of the Road Commission.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- No Report.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- Putting out snow stakes.
- Finishing Tahqua Trail with gravel and seed/mulch.
- Starting to haul ice/sand.
- Brush hog still out.

Foreman Rye

- Ditching on Neebish Island.
- Grader on Drummond Island pulling sides.
- Working on the concrete slab for the fuel station on Drummond Island.

Engineer Boileau

- Finishing up the two sections of Six Mile Road. Waiting on weather and contractor availability. Completion of the project will be late and liquidated damages will apply beginning Monday, October 17.
- Working to prepare bid packages for next year, including a striping package for primary (Fed-Aid eligible) roads. Would like to work with townships to compile a large list of local roads while the striping company is here.

Clerk Christensen

- Snow stakes here.
- Salt delivered to Eckerman and Kinross.
- Sam from CRASIF did a site visit at the Soo. The garage looked good, but he noted some housekeeping items that we need to work on.

Union President Cheney

- Union dinner is October 15th at the Kewadin Casino in the Grand Ballroom. Social hour at 5:00 dinner at 6:00.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- UP Clerks meeting is October 19th and 20th in Iron Mountain.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Working with the Pickford crew to keep up.
- Shop is busy working on sanders.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Receiving questions regarding R-O-W on Dix Point Road on Drummond Island. One resident has an issue with an existing culvert.
- A fall safety day and employee social event is planned for October 26th at Bruce Township Hall. The day will start at 6:00 a.m. and the office will be closed.
- The legislature is getting involved in the issues being created by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and their

excessive requirement for historic reviews of job sites with existing structures prior to replacement.

- The county surveyor equipment and documents will be moved in January to the county building.
- The Assistant Mechanic Position in Pickford was accepted this morning. Derek Crawford will join us on October 31, 2022 from the Rudyard bus garage.
- Last week we participated in the Brimley School Careers on Wheels event. Eric Mongene from the Brimley garage did a great job interacting with the students during the event.
- Access issues with gated roads will likely start up again as hunting season approaches.
- Received a notice of intent from Soo Township to update their master plan regarding maintenance of their paved roads.
- Had an opportunity to see a demonstration of a new automated flagging device from Give-em-a-Break Safety. This new device would remove the flagmen from the lanes of traffic where there is the greatest danger of being hit by a motorist to a safer location, allowing remote capability to raise and lower a stop bar and operate flashing stop lights to direct traffic. This would also remove the flagmen from open areas of high sun exposure during the peak heat days of summer. The quoted price for the system is approximately \$27k and will likely be included in the up-coming capital outlay plan.
- Will be attending meetings for General Policy Committee, Wet Land Committee, and JATC.
- Thanked the union for the invite to the annual dinner. Inclusion of the administrative staff is greatly appreciated.
- Schedules will revert to five (5) days a week on Monday, October 31, 2022 and Night operations will begin on Saturday November 5, 2022.
- Three seasonal temp positions have been filled and three more positions will be posted today. Current fuel prices are still too volatile to risk hiring fulltime employees. To date no ARPA funds have been released by the county to the Road Commission to offset lost revenue. We will reassess in April. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2022 MDOT Pavement Patching bid award - Manager Laitinen presented the bid with four locations of patching needed due to damage caused by car fires. One (1) bid was received from Rieth Riley in the amount of \$124,190. Manager Laitinen made the recommendation the bid be awarded contingent upon MDOT support.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the bid as recommended to Rieth Riley.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Trout Lake Township Clerk Hillman inquired about brush hog work on H40 for this year. Foreman Goodman indicated we have more work to do there but that it likely would not be completed this year.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commission Moser commented on the Commissioners Conference attended in Frankenmuth and noted the content was good.
- Chairman Timmer expressed excitement regarding the opportunity to acquire the new automated flagging station and wished everyone to stay safe.

MOTION CARRIED

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman