

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 September 30, 2021.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Boileau, Office Manager Decker, Clerk Livermore, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Clerk Christensen, Union President Mills

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$154,970.15 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 16, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Installation of the fuel tank in Pickford has started and 1,000 gallons of fuel has been delivered. Testing of the system expected to start next week.
- The 20-year old boiler in the office building experienced a catastrophic failure this week. A new one has been ordered and expected delivery and installation to start in the next week or two.
- The pump on the boiler in the garage also failed and a search for a replacement has begun. Hoping to have repaired next week.
- MTF funds were back up this month to \$700K. With no regularity or explanation for the variance in funding from estimates to actual, cashflow is tight. Manager Laitinen pointed out September had three pays in it with two months of low revenue checks from the state. He asked everyone to be mindful of

purchases and expenses at this time as cashflow is temporarily tight. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Erickson

- Westshore is just about complete. Slope work and rip rap finishing up this week and beginning to fix mailboxes.
- Mainland crew is focusing on gravel maintenance and shoulder work.

Foreman Goodman

- Faced two challenges.
 - Changed the pipe on Six Mile Road by the State Park. A utility contractor damaged a pipe that wouldn't have otherwise needed replacing.
 - Replaced a pipe at Pendills Fish Hatchery.

Foreman Rye

- Maintenance work on roads.
- Patching M-129 bridge approach at Munuscong River.

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Union President Mills

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended the CRASIF Meeting and Northern Conference. Was not elected to the CRASIF Board of Trustees but received support from peers to run again in the next election.
- Accepted our Honor Roll award for our 11th year of having a MOD factor of less than 1.
- Accepted a \$750 safety award from CRASIF
- Will be attending the MERS Annual Meeting next week.

Engineer Boileau

- All of the big construction for the season is complete.
- Working on MDOT maintenance work reporting.
- Construction of the salt barn in Goetzville has begun and is on track to store salt this season.
- Moving the Hulbert Road construction to next year.
- Working on specs for next year's work.
- Bid's for Six Mile are due out next week.
- Have scheduled the next level of traffic control training for the second week of October.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Truck 714 has finally gotten the emission problem fixed and is being picked up this morning.

- We were scheduled to sell three trucks this year, but due to supply chain issues for parts, we will hold them until next year to avoid being short on equipment this winter.
- Two months ago we ordered tires for this year. This was early due to supply chain concerns. What we have on hand will have to be enough to get through this winter. Sources indicated their supply is dry and no more can be purchased. We will need to be aware of the condition of the tires before changing them in an effort to ensure we have the inventory needed to get us through.
- We received a pallet of brake drums. This type of stock typically took a couple of days to a couple of weeks to get. This order took nearly 6 weeks to receive.
- Working on a list of surplus equipment to put out for sealed bids.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Had one of our newest trucks on display at the fair and at the St. Ignace Truck Show. JXE sponsored the truck entry into the show. We received some good feedback from the community on this.
- Attended the CRASIF Annual Meeting and Northern Conference. A lot of good content.
 - Attended the Negotiating Committee meeting. Contracts are done for the Maintenance Counties. Headed up the start of a discussion with MDOT to include incentive programs to promote shared savings. There are ways for both the road commissions and MDOT to save money, but to make it get traction, there needs to be a share in the expense savings. The other conversation at the meeting regarded recruitment of new members to the committee. In the next couple of years there will be a turn-over due to numerous retirements. Now is the time to get new members in and up to speed before the institutional knowledge is gone.
 - Attended the Engineering Committee meeting to discuss stream mitigation and working with EGLE.
- Finished up 20 Mile culvert replacement. The job went well. Thank you to everyone involved.
- The salt barn in Goetzville is moving along. The footings have been poured.
- Spoke with our EGLE representative regarding the site of the old Paradise Garage. Their request to do some exploratory boring to see firsthand what kinds of contaminants they are dealing with has been granted. Our assistance in digging and light excavation has been offered. All of this is in anticipation of state involvement/funding for clean-up. We still have to complete the shoreline work at the site.
- Spoke with the Drummond Island Resort Manager regarding a gate issue at the Tourist Road cul-de-sac. This cul-de-sac is in our right-of-way and is used to turn around during winter maintenance. Earlier this year there was a request to put an automatic gate in this location. The foreman and surveyor met with a resort representative at the time and denied their

request. A gate has since been installed, denying our access. The manager was informed that permission was not granted and this needs to be corrected. The resort owns the surrounding property and will be providing a new cul-de-sac/turn-around as well as an abandonment request.

- Meeting with watershed groups and conducting a study of the Munuscong watershed. Looking at grant funding for some crossings.
- The FLAP grant for the Ship Wreck Society was nearly lost due to a delay by their engineering consultant. An extension to get this done has been granted and consultant has been informed their work needs to be completed by November 1st.
- Starting to look at winter staffing.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **None**

County Commissioners Comments

- NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Township Supervisor asked about the paving of Bay Road. Engineer Boileau indicated it was unlikely to be done this year, but will verify with the paving contractor. Township Supervisor Davis thanked the crew for the work on Prairie.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Moser thanked Manager Laitinen for the experience in a ride along on Drummond Island and the communication provided to residents.

Chairman Timmer reminded everyone of the need to be safe on the roads and aware of where you are when in a work zone.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman