

**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 5, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Union President Mills, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Gagnon, Foreman Goodman, Superintendent Erickson

**GUEST PRESENT:** Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis,

Manager Laitinen requested Dix Point Road easement be added to agenda under item e.)

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that item e.) be added to the agenda and the agenda be accepted.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that Payroll in the amount of \$155,570.30 and Vouchers in the amount of \$439,342.23 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 July 22, 2021 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Barry Davis, Rudyard Township Supervisor, inquired the policy on ditching. He has been receiving questions from residents concerned about the vegetative growth and potential for standing water. Manager Laitinen indicated there is not a set policy on ditching. Ditching is considered general maintenance done as a low priority unless the conditions pose a threat to the roadway. Our crew does not typically do ditch work to manage small amounts of standing water that does not show the potential to cause damage to a road.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- New fuel tanks are scheduled for delivery on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The logistics for the Pickford tank will have some challenges as we try to ensure the current tank is empty prior to the arrival of the new tank. Pickford crew may need to fuel equipment at the Goetzville garage or the gas station for a few days during the

installation. Eckerman is ready for the tank delivery and installation.

- June financials have been presented.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Cream City Point on Drummond Island is complete.
- The crew is working on 20 Mile Road culvert.

Clerk Christensen

- The tire trailer is at the Sault Garage. We had some issues with delivery this time. This trailer is full and was filled in a day and a half.
- With the success of this tire collection, EGLE wants to partner for other initiatives.
- Jack Hill from MCRCSIP did a walk through and talked about the mower fire claims the pool has been handling.
- The application for \$10,000 in grant funding from MIOSHA was denied. The application for the clean fuel truck grant is still in process.

Union President Mills

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Worked to gather documents for a large FOIA request.
- Attended the annual MCRCSIP meeting. Due to the market and low claims volume, the pool had a good year and presented the members with a \$15M refund. CCRC's portion was \$208K.
- Attended F&HR meeting while at MCRCSIP. This year the group is adding foundational training for the annual conference. Road Commissions across the state are seeing more and more new faces.
- Working to finalize the UP Clerks content for the October meeting.

Engineer Boileau

- We have funding for Industrial Park Drive. There is a push to get the funds obligated before 9/30/2021.
- A traffic study for the 5-way stop in Rudyard will begin in September.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Brush-hog tractor from Diamond Mower was delivered last week. Ancillary parts have been installed and it is out working.
- Next needs for equipment are a four axle dump trailer and a tow behind trailer for a dump truck.
- Received notification from tire vendors regarding availability. Tires typically purchased in October need to be purchased now and there is no guarantee of quantity fulfillment. Quotes for tires were sent this week.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The millage renewal passed. Thank you to the Save Our Roads Committee and the donors that funded the advertising for this initiative. Discussion ensued.
- The excavation on 20 Mile Road is underway and going well.
- Thank you to the MCRCSIP group for the assistance in processing the FOIA request from the Paradise group.
- Received a copy of a letter from the Whitefish Township regarding the shoreline erosion contract work that was to be performed this summer. The township has rescinded the shoreline stone-work contract. We will re-prioritize other work to try to complete this work with our forces.
- Working on bids for MDOT maintenance projects. Due to the lateness, some of this work may have to be pushed to next year.
- At the MCRCSIP conference, the pool announced that labor attorney, Wendy Hardt will be leaving Kluck and Associates to join MCRCSIP directly as their claims manager.
- Small Urban meeting to discuss COVID relief funds. EUPTA had a request in for funding from this source to help with their new facility costs.
- Negotiation for the MDOT contract is complete.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A.) MERS Annual Meeting - Delegate - Manager Laitinen requested to be the authorized voting delegate at the MERS Annual Meeting with Clerk Livermore as the alternate. One employee delegate is typically chosen by the union to attend this conference and needs to be communicated to Clerk Livermore by August 19<sup>th</sup> to ensure registrations and reservations are made in time to receive the early-bird pricing.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to appoint Manager Laitinen as the Officer Delegate, Clerk Livermore as the Officer Alternate, and an employee delegate and alternate of the union's choosing for the MERS Annual Meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- B.) CRASIF Ballot - Manager Laitinen presented the CRASIF ballot to vote on six positions on the Board of Trustees. The ballot

included six incumbents and three new candidates. Manager Laitinen recommended the vote for five of the incumbents and one of the new candidates.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to vote for Jesse Campbell, Ken Hulka, Deb Kestner, Lisa Kleeman, Bobbie Livermore, and Michael Scott for the CRASIF Board of Trustees.

**MOTION CARRIED**

C.) Hydro Seeder - CCRC was included in a list-serve email indicating Lake County has a 2017 Hydro Seeder for sale with an asking price of \$45,000. Manager Laitinen did some research on the cost to purchase new. Old hay and much is getting harder to acquire and this piece of equipment would be a great alternative.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the purchase of the used Hydro Seeder from Lake County.

**MOTION CARRIED**

D.) Neebish Island Property - Manager Laitinen revisited the purchase of the gravel pit on Neebish Island. The original purchase agreement set a condition that the scrap iron and other junk needed to be cleaned out prior to the completion of the sale. The seller is now in a "Must Sell" position and much of the work is not completed. Manager Laitinen reported that the value of the remaining scrap iron on the property would cover our labor costs to remove and recommended the purchase agreement be modified to remove the condition.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to reaffirm Manager Laitinen's authorization to purchase the Neebish Island property.

**MOTION CARRIED**

E.) Dix Point Road - Manager Laitinen reported the deed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> mile of Dix Point Road has been received. The Road Commission holds easement for the 1<sup>st</sup> mile. Receipt of this deed will ensure no future title problems for all of the residents on this roadway.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept the deed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**County Commissioners Comments**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer expressed his appreciation for the repair to Lake Shore Drive. Be Safe!

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard Timmer  
Chairman