

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, Michigan on January 24, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, and Clerk Ranta.

ABSENT: Project Manager Jere, Surveyor Wiggins and Union President Mills.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$173,621.48 and Vouchers in the amount of \$169,253.58 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

Discussion ensued in regards to the amounts and the timing of the State of Michigan Treasury's take-back of funds that were distributed in error to Michigan Road Commissions.

Chairman Timmer stated that he would be meeting with the County Road Association in Lansing on January 25, 2019, and will ask for the spreadsheet that shows specific amounts that will be recouped and the dates they will occur for each county.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the regular meeting minutes on January 10, 2019.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- The crew is keeping up the roads very well, despite the weather conditions.
- Using the bank slicer on the grader and the new loader blower to assist in snow removal.
- The new loader blower was a good investment.
- Working on getting ice sand to Sugar Island as piles are being depleted due to the weather conditions.

Foreman Goodman

- The crew has been very busy with the winter weather.

- Putting lots of hours on the trucks. Keeping Frank busy with odds and ends type of items.
- Had an unfortunate mishap when the wing of one of the new trucks hooked onto the guardrail and turned the truck sideways. Manager Laitinen added that the truck then rolled through the guardrail and destroyed about 150 feet of guardrail. Thankfully nobody was injured; however, the truck is probably a total loss. The insurance adjuster is assessing if the truck can be repaired or replaced. Discussion ensued.

Foreman McConkey

- Working on removing snow.
- Maintaining our trucks.
- Ken Fegan, the Pickford Garage Mechanic, retired this past Friday, January 18, 2019. Foreman McConkey commended Ken Fegan for doing a good job for us over all the years. Ken Fegan also has been excellent at manufacturing and adapting ideas for equipment and the facility. Ken Fegan has been with us over 25 years and will be missed.
- The crews are doing a great job.
- Discussion ensued about the use of wings on the plow trucks.

Brian Decker

- Working on year end items.
- Received 6 new computers to be used with the computerized time card system that is being set up for our garages.
- Charter Communications will be utilized for an internet connection in the Rudyard and Brimley garages and the Eckerman and Drummond Island garages will be using an AT&T hotspot to connect to the internet to use the new computerized time card system.
- A static IP has been set up so that when the outside garages are set up with internet, they will be able to communicate with our main office.
- New computers for the front office and parts room are due to arrive next week.
- Working with insurance adjuster on the truck accident.
- Programming Chief Mechanic Marsh's computer so it can communicate with the Kenworth trucks for diagnostic purposes.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The truck involved in the accident is still on the Low-boy, awaiting the claims adjuster's decision.
- Working out in the Pickford garage and working to make a smooth transition for the new mechanic who will begin working at the Pickford garage next week.
- The Soo mechanic shop is staying even with work, not behind, but not ahead.

- Chairman Timmer inquired to the extent of the damage on the truck. Chief Mechanic Marsh replied that everything below the frame rails, from the plow hitch to the underbody, is either smashed or bent. The truck went through the guardrail, which caused extensive damage. The front axle is not held in by much, all steering is broke off, the wing is bent, fender damage, the steps and battery boxes and everything that hangs has been smashed.

MANAGERS REPORTS

- Traveled to Lansing last week to attend Wetland Board and DEQ committee meetings.
- Wetland Board meeting went well. For the coming year, all of the funds were obligated with the exception of \$250,000 which will be used for small projects as they come up.
- Mackinac County was an applicant for funds and Chippewa County will partner with them on a future project along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- Due to legislative changes, the Wetland Board was reconstituted and every member must ask for reappointment to the board. Manager Laitinen has put in his application for reappointment.
- Manager Laitinen was interviewed and videotaped by the County Road Association for a report regarding the 15 Mile Road project that occurred here in Chippewa County last year. This will be part of a report to the legislature sometime in March.
- The truck accident has already been mentioned and unfortunately there are no quick solutions for replacement of the damaged vehicle.
- The Small Urban Committee meeting occurred here at the Soo office last week and went well. Resolutions resulting from the meeting will be presented later under New Business.
- Will be working with Ball Construction on the divider wall and other small improvements here in the main office. Construction will begin on February 4, 2019.
- Completed all the recent interviewing and hiring.
- Congratulations to Ken Fegan on his retirement. He was an all around good hand. Ken had a different insight on things which had a positive impact. He will be missed.
- Ethan Castagne was hired to replace Ken and will start next week.
- Received our striping proposal from MDOT. Going through the final review. Looks good.
- Will meet with the new administrator from Bay Mills Tribe later today.

NEW BUSINESS

- CRA Board of Directors Ballot
Two nominees for the position of CRA Board member were presented and discussed.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to nominate Commissioner Lester Livermore of Mackinac County to be a representative to the CRA Board position.

MOTION CARRIED

- Kinross Salt Shed Repair Bid Award
Sidock Group, Inc. prepared bid packages and held a bid opening at the Chippewa County Road Commission on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. Three bids were received.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the Kinross Salt Shed Repair Bid to Bonacci Contracting.

MOTION CARRIED

- Resolution 2019-01- Support for Small Urban Program Funding 2021-2023 in the Kinross Charter Township Urban Area.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to pass Resolution 2019-01 in Support for Small Urban Program Funding 2021-2023 in the Kinross Charter Township Urban Area and authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the contract.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- Resolution 2019-02- Support for Small Urban Program Funding 2021-2023 in the Sault Ste. Marie Urban Area.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to pass Resolution 2019-02 in Support for Small Urban Program Funding 2021-2023 in the Sault Ste. Marie Urban Area and authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the contract.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

- Commissioner Ormsbee inquired how retirees are honored for their years of service. Discussion Ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon in honor of service to retirees, a plaque will be presented with our appreciation of years of service so that the employee's years of service does not go unrewarded and that our appreciation is felt in a meaningful way.

MOTION CARRIED

- Chairman Timmer reminded everyone to stay safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 A.M.

Stephanie A Ranta
Clerk for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman