

**A REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on May 7, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Project Manager Deatrlick, Engineer Krouth, Clerk Price, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Pesola, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

**ABSENT:** Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$121,216.68 and Vouchers in the amount of \$221,886.13 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2015 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Supervisor Jim Moore asked when Payne & Dolan would begin paving. Manager Laitinen indicated that work would begin on May 18<sup>th</sup>. He also inquired about County load limits. Manager Laitinen stated that our limits are coming off Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. and the State is removing theirs on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Moore noted that he had driven Mackinac Trail and that the bumps had improved greatly and that he still saw water bleeding out of the road. Manager Laitinen reported that Mackinac Trail still has about 10" of frost deep in the road. Supervisor Moore said he drove Ploegstra Road and noticed several cracks and inquired what could be done to resolve that. Manager Laitinen said that we can fill them with the crack sealing machine. Discussion ensued regarding use of the crack sealer. Supervisor Moore's last inquiry was regarding the resurfacing of M-80. Manager Laitinen indicated that he is not aware of any plans to resurface M-80.

## STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Pesola

- Full crew working on Hulbert roads/intersections removing the berm and sand build up. Laid new seed and mulch, looks great!
- Salt shed maintenance work complete
- Grading gravel roads, they are in good shape
- Patching blacktop pot holes

Commissioner Timmer asked if there were any other areas in the County in need of the same type of clean-up done in Hulbert. Discussion ensued regarding the different types of equipment used for cleaning around guardrail and road sweeping. Manager Laitinen interjected that had Proposal 1 passed that we could afford the additional equipment needed to do that type of clean-up.

Foreman Erickson

- Doing a lot of maintenance on gravel and seasonal roads
- Cold patching and crack sealing
- Screen plant has been set up at the 15 Mile Rd pit
- Sugar Island came through the thaw well, very few problems. He wanted to recognize the two man Sugar Island crew and the great job they are doing

Foreman McConkey

- Working on gravel roads, pulling in shoulders
- Cold patching and crack sealing
- Excess sand from Detour and Drummond intersections swept
- Shop has been really busy

Office Manager Decker

- Two of the new pick-up's are in and at Linex having the boxes done. The third will have the box done on Monday
- Preliminary estimates for the lighting project at the Eckerman garage are in the \$7500 to \$15,000 range. Getting phone/fax quotes from five vendors. May break out projects in two parts if necessary
- Peterbilt trucks are in and the wire transfer for them will be made this afternoon

Project Manager Deatruck

- Handling heavy call volume due to load limits and permit requests. Thanked Clerk Price for her help with the call load
- Was notified by Payne & Dolan that County paving will begin on the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. He will begin doing some preliminary staking and layout in preparation for the upcoming projects
- Happy to report that MDOT and FHWA have finally seen things our way regarding the interpretation of special provisions, post

project. An e-mail was received from Tony Gretz with MDOT it read, in part: (*"I concur with the LPA's assessment of the SP. For this one time, I would permit the LPA's option to test due to poor wording in the SP."*)

The new special provisions have been suspended for our current project. New testing requirements will start in October.

Discussion ensued

Engineer Krouth

- Coming up we will be reviewing the Little Rapids project proposals, due June 20<sup>th</sup>. At the following meeting we will be picking the contractor and working with NOAA on an agreement for the final changes.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Lots of maintenance, brush hogs, Pickford loader, graders
- Prepping for new trucks and pick-ups
- Doing a bumper to bumper check on trucks that are not currently in use

Union President Hopper

- No comments

#### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS - None**

**BOARD POLICY REVIEW**- over the next several meetings all Board policies will be reviewed and reaffirmed.

#10 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy: Updated information was just received and needs to be reviewed before being reaffirmed.

#11 Heavy Hauling Policy: No changes necessary.

#12 Smoking Policy: In compliance with current State law, no changes needed.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to table Board Policy #10 pending review and reaffirm Board Policies 11, and 12 as they currently read.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

Office Manager Decker asked the Board for approval to proceed with the annual dust control program with the Townships. Discussion ensued

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by None to approve for one year, then discontinue the cost sharing program with the Townships on dust control, due to the defeat of Proposal 1 and lack of funding.

#### **MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to match each Township 1/3 of the cost up to \$1000 towards their dust control programs.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Manager Laitinen reported that he and Office Manager Decker have been looking ahead towards our culvert needs for the upcoming construction season with the approximate cost being \$35,000. Discussion ensued. We have been contacted by ETNA and told they are able to extend last year's bid price. Additionally we have an opportunity to purchase truck blades at last year's price.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that with the culverts and blades to accept extension of last year's bid price to this year to realize a cost savings and to serve the best interest of the Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Office Manager Decker asked for clarification from the Board. In the event these opportunities arise can we proceed independently or do you want each situation brought to the Board for approval? The Board agreed that Manager Laitinen and Office Manager Decker act in the best interest of the Board and keep them informed of such situations.

**MANAGERS REPORT**

- Manager Laitinen indicated his huge disappointment in the defeat of Proposition 1. Numbers for Chippewa County followed the State's pretty closely they were 84% against and 16% in support. From comments he has received the public is in support of Roads and Road Commissions but did not like the sales tax aspect. We have always found a way to get the job done and many of our residents don't realize what a burden it is on our budget. We need to start having the services we provide be more in line with the funding we receive. Discussion ensued
- Crews are back on four ten hour work shifts
- Weight limits coming off Friday morning at 8:00 am
- Attended an additional RTF meeting in St. Ignace to adjust numbers again on the Federal Aid jobs. Also received notice that Nathan Fazer is leaving his position with Regional Planning.
- Recapped the decision of MDOT to reverse their interpretation of the HMA special provision.
- Meet with Chuck Moser at the Detour ferry dock and discussed a possible paving project. He asked if he may be able to add it to our local paving package.
- Working with MDOT in Lansing on the update and renewal of the Title 6 plan.
- Attended the MCRCSIP liability pool training on employment practice liability. New rules are coming into place that would

require two different job applications to be used. One for CDL holders and one for non-CDL holders.

- Working with Lisa from Marquette County on the Road Builders meeting at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie in June. Planning a golf outing and a dinner cruise. Still looking for an opening speaker.
- Attended the Straits Area Council meeting on Tuesday. Good updates and reports. No notice on CRASIF refunds yet, they will decide in July.
- Traveled to Truck and Trailer in Boyne Falls and took delivery of the 6 new Peterbilt trucks. Very nice trucks!
- Two of the three new Foreman pick-ups are being delivered today. A call was received by County Commissioner Johnson inquiring as to what we are doing with our old pick-ups. Manager Laitinen explained that by the time we are ready to retire a pick-up it's because it is no longer road worthy. Discussion ensued
- Met with a group of residents from Maple Rd. in Raber. Maple Rd is a private road with several homes. They would like their road to be added to the County Road system. They were given a copy of the policy for accepting roads on the County system. Discussion ensued

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Kinross Supervisor Moore asked when the no parking signs would be put up. Manager Laitinen stated he would speak with the sign foreman. Supervisor Moore also asked when the Kinross Road project would start. He was told that it was our first project this season but he did not have an exact start date. He then asked if the Road Commission had received a list from Sault Tribe on the roads they want to do, we have not.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Timmer noted that one of the topics at the Straits area meeting was the multiple use seasonal road issue. Maintenance and signage issues were discussed.

Commissioner Timmer said he was very impressed with Truck and Trailer and their operation.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

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Amy L. Price  
Secretary for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman