

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 December 24, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer (via ZOOM), Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon (via ZOOM), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Union President Mills, Chief Mechanic Marsh. Manager Laitinen noted their absence due to the MDHHS work remote order.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Elect, Erik Baron

Commissioner Ormsbee accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$161,025.84 and Vouchers in the amount of \$253,799.50 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 10, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Completed the proposed budget for the special meeting on December 30, 2020. The projection is a conservative projection based on the observed decrease in state funding.
- Looks like we will end 2020 with a \$200K-\$300K deficit. With the decrease in state funding received as a result of the "Stay Home" executive orders, it could have been much worse. By financing many of this year's capital outlay expenditures and exhausting all available state maintenance and TWA funds, we were able to offset some of the lost revenue.

Superintendent Erickson

- No report.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen -

- Created envelopes of essential information (proof of insurance, accident report, radio information, etc) for each of the trucks.
- We have received \$7,500 in grant funding for COVID-19 related safety equipment.
- We have polled the staff for interest in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to the Road Commission as a first responder unit. Approximately 30 of the 70 employees have indicated they would be interested in receiving the vaccine.

Union President Mills

- No report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Continuing to stay educated on changes related to COVID-19.
- Starting to prep for year-end payroll reporting.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended the grade inspection meeting with the Shipwreck Society and SIDOCK. Some provisional changes will need to be considered.
- Visited the Paradise Garage with the new Whitefish Township Supervisor. There has been little new erosion since spring. Received mixing zone approval from EGLE. This sets up the acceptance criteria on the seeps. The levels are very small and if they continue to stay at these levels, we will not have to excavate the underground tanks. The buried garbage will still need to be taken care of.
- We are getting close to closing out the contract modifications for Gaines Highway, Curley Lewis Highway, and Ranger Road.
- At the request of Trustee, Kinsella, revisited the obstruction site on Crawford Street in Brimley. The pile of dirt has been moved from the road to the southerly ditch. This may pose a future drainage issue in the spring and will be the responsibility of the land owner. The crew has been directed to resume plowing Crawford Street.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) DeTour Township Road agreement - A township road agreement to crush and shape with placement of new asphalt on MacDonald Road between N. Caribou Lake Road and S. Caribou Lake Road. The estimated cost to the township is \$115,405.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve and sign the DeTour Township Road Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

B.) Transfer funds to the OPEB Trust - Manager Decker recommended a transfer of \$250K from the general fund to the OPEB trust. This investment will earn a greater return than our current savings and will positively impact the fringe rate charged.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to transfer \$250K to Morgan Stanley for benefit to the OPEB trust.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer noted the CRA legislative review committee is predicting the small cell right-of-way bill will probably pass. There is also a proposed change to the paint width on striping. The proposal looks to increase the width from 4 inches to 6 inches. Manager Laitinen will put together a comment, arguing the safety concerns associated with this change.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman