

**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 February 21, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Erickson, Engineer VanDorn, and Clerk Ranta.

**ABSENT:** Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, and Union President Mills

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$214,131.52 and Vouchers in the amount of \$204,710.33 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

Manager Laitinen noted that the payroll amount reflects an increase in the crew's overtime hours due to the various storms that have occurred this season. Concern for drivers' safety was expressed. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes on February 7, 2019.

Chairman Timmer noted a correction that the word, "back" was used twice under Foreman Erickson's comments and asked the duplicate to be deleted.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kevin Fabry, resident of Milligan Road, wished to address drainage concerns that affect his neighborhood. His concern is addressed under new business.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Erickson

- We have experienced a lot of winter weather and storms. The snow banks are higher this year than previous years.
- Pushing back the snow banks to make more room for the next snow storm.
- Worked on snow removal from the Median Barrier Wall which is near the International Bridge. The snow was over 8' high. Wish to

express our thanks to the Police Department from the City of Sault Ste. Marie who helped with traffic control.

- Because Chief Mechanic Marsh was absent, Foreman Erickson expressed his thanks to the Mechanic crew. They have been steady with work. No major issues, but normal wear and tear on the trucks after running 7 days a week.

#### Office Manager Decker

- Setting up 3 new computers for the office and parts room staff.
- Sent pages of Act 51 to the auditor as requested.
- Received the actuarial of the OPEB for 2018. Liability itself decreased. Annual Required Contribution payments decreased as well. Plan to transfer \$200,000 to \$250,000 to the trust company.
- Working on lots of IT issues.
- Chairman Timmer asked if MDOT has responded to the increase of overhead. Office Manager Decker says that MDOT has not yet responded.

#### Engineer VanDorn

- Started working at the Chippewa County Road Commission this past Monday.
- Went to Field Manager Training on Tuesday. Currently getting up to speed with the various projects occurring at the Road Commission.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Lots of snow to work with and lots of hours have been put in. The crew and mechanics have done a great job.
- New mechanic in Pickford is working out well.
- Thanks to Surveyor Wiggins who figured out a way in the CAD program to enlarge the wiring diagrams for the Peterbilt and Kenworth trucks. The mechanics now have a much easier time reading the diagrams to perform the necessary fixes.
- Welcomed our new Engineer, Tom VanDorn. Bringing Tom up to speed on our projects.
- Met with Nathan Coon from Regional Planning last week. He is developing access to the County GIS system for us.
- Continue to work with Dan and Dave from AECOM to finalize project paperwork from 2018 for MDOT.
- Dan and Superintendent Laitinen met with Al Roden from CRAISF's Workman's Compensation last week. Discussed the development of a Safety Best Practices Guideline. OSHA and MIOSHA rules are driving these guidelines.
- MIOSHA has published what area they will be focusing on this year and it is in the industry of transportation and construction. We are to expect at least 1 or more visits this year.

- Would like the safety committee, which is outline in the union contract, to become more active.
- Encouraged by the Michigan Governor State of the State address in regards to her support of roads. Discussion ensued.
- Bridge bundling is moving forward. This is MDOT's new way of funding bridge projects. Discussion ensued.
- Met with the Bay Mills Tribe Environmental staff and reviewed the 83 page Watershed plan for the Whiskey River. There were 9 road/stream crossings of interest. Looking forward to a continued working relationship with the Bay Mills Tribe Environmental staff. Will meet with them again on Monday.
- Pre-construction meeting was held with Bonacci Construction for the Kinross Salt Shed repairs.
- Reiterating thanks to the City Police of Sault Ste. Marie for their help with traffic control when removing snow from the Median Barrier Wall which is near the International Bridge.
- Salt and sand supplies are low. Discussion ensued.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Milligan Road Drainage  
Neighborhood residents from Milligan Road voiced their concern over drainage issues that are affecting water flow over the top of Milligan Road and excess water on their property.

Three main focus areas of concern were discussed: 1) The size of the outlet pipe leading to the shore was insufficient to carry the water load. 2) The ditch on the North Side of Milligan Road needs to be assessed. 3) The need for an additional outlet pipe to the shore and its potential placement.

Superintendent Laitinen agreed to change the current outlet pipe in the spring to a larger pipe. After the snow melts, the North Side of Milligan Road will be assessed to determine what additional steps need to be taken to avert the excess water.

Superintendent Laitinen asked the residents to join us again for a future meeting to discuss results of the assessment.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

- Chairman Timmer stated his concern over the amount of tree branches that are bending and hanging in the roads due to the ice storms. He discussed the possibility of obtaining quotes from professional tree companies to aid in cutting down these large obstructions. Discussion ensued.

- Chairman Timmer asked Foreman Erickson to tell the crew thanks for a good job. The Road Commission has been receiving many positive comments from the community. It is very much appreciated.
- Chairman Timmer concluded commending everyone on a good job and to stay safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 A.M.

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Stephanie A Ranta  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman