

**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 26, 2017.

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

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Engineer Krouth, Project Manager Jere, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh 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 \$175,972.76 and Vouchers in the amount of \$176,272.06 + 804.06 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 12, 2017

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

County Road Association Bylaw Changes.

Manager Laitinen went over the proposed bylaw changes. Chairman Timmer recommended that we approve the proposed changes.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the proposed County Road Association Changes.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Security Benefit Service Fee.

Office Manager Decker reported to the Board that during the process of switching over the Security Benefit account to Empower it was discovered that buried in the small print was a fixed account fee. This fee would equal about \$7000.00. Manager Laitinen felt that the fee should be covered by the Road Commission and not passed on to the employees.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that the Road Commission pay the \$7,000 Security Benefit fee on behalf of the employees.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Recognition of Employee William Bowyer

Manager Laitinen read to the Board a letter of appreciation for retiring Rudyard employee William Bowyer.

The Board of County Road Commissioners unanimously resolved to wish William a healthy and happy retirement and to present him said letter as a token of their gratitude.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor thanked Foreman Goodman and the crew that maintains the Kincheloe housing area. He also thanked Sign Foreman Young for getting the new Short Cut Road signs. He mentioned that he will be having Payne and Dolan paving the Short Cut Road.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The break in weather has allowed the shop to catch up.
- All is running smoothly.

Engineer Krouth

- Finishing up last year's road project reporting.
- Continuing to work on upcoming projects for this season.

Project/Safety Manager Jere

- Working on upcoming projects.
- Soil erosion inspections.
- Doing shop safety inspections.

Office Manager Decker

- Working on deferred comp switchover.
- Closing out year end.
- Audit is scheduled for February.

Foreman McConkey

- Nice break in weather.
- Working on water problems/ditching.
- Gravel Roads are pretty soft.

Foreman Goodman

- Working on peeling off ice and snow pack.
- Pushing back banks.
- Several water problems due to melt.

Foreman Erickson

- Dealing with water issues, cleaning out ditches.
- Crew is catching up on truck service and maintenance.
- Second salt deliver was made to the Kinross Shed.
- Putting up more ice sand.

Union President Hopper

- Reported that the intersection at Water Tower Dr and Short Cut Road needs improvement before paving.

### **MANAGERS REPORT**

- Did a safety presentation at the Soo Co-op preschool. The kids loved being able to crawl in and out of the truck. Employee Dan Bonnee and Safety Manager Jere were present to talk to the children about plow safety. Chairman Timmer suggested that a formal written program is developed that can be shared with other interested agencies.
- Attended the first Wetland Mitigation Bank meeting. The group elected officers and adopted bylaws. Three committees were formed Administrative, Program Development and Education. Manager Laitinen was elected Chairman of Program Development. A call for projects will hopefully go out between the April and July meeting.
- Attended the Joint Agency Transportation Committee meeting held on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. MDEQ presented their annual report, 860 transportation permits were issued. Two new items. First the Federal EPA Air Quality program now counts bridges as possible asbestos sites and now must be tested before being demolished for replacement. Second, the Massasauga Rattle Snake has been added to the endangered species list which will add additional requirements when working in the ROW. New legislation, PA 181 & 182 was discussed.
- Bids for the three new pick-up's are out. Working on developing the specs for the sign truck.
- State Senator Shirkey will be introducing new legislation that would have the Amish Community following registration requirements and safety lighting on their Buggies. Manager Laitinen will be watching to see how it plays out.
- The State mowing contract has expired. The contract will be put out for bids soon. There are several interested contractors.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Timmer presented sample evaluations for employee reviews. Discussion ensued on how and when to use them.

Chairman Timmer asked if any research has been done on a security/camera system for the building. Manager Laitinen indicated that he is working on it.

Commissioner Ormsbee commented on the new County map on the wall. He suggested that we cover it with Plexiglas so that it can be written on and erased.

Chairman Timmer reported that he was in Lansing attending the CRA Legislative review. Discussion ensued.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor commented that he did see an Amish Buggy with red and white safety lighting and another that did not stop at a stop sign.

Union President Hopper asked about proposal 1 being shot down and the new gas tax that was passed. He also asked if the DEQ would allow us to use old pits as mitigation sites. Manager Laitinen answered that it is allowed.

Office Manager Decker added that the Road Commission is again doing radio spots during the I-500 week. Lighting upgrades for the Neebish Island garage will be next week.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer mentioned that the green lights on the trucks are not as visible when they are oncoming, but are great from behind. He reminded the staff to work safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

---

Amy L Price  
Clerk for the Board

---

Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman