

**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 April 23, 2015.

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

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Gagnon, Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$124,425.01 and Vouchers in the amount of \$283,060.59 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 9, 2015 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Supervisor Jim Moore asked when the paving project in Kinross would start. Manager Laitinen indicated that we are waiting for Frost Laws to come off the roads. Payne & Dolan is planning on doing the remaining 2014 County paving projects first then the I-75 project.

Kinross Supervisor Moore noted that no County Commissioners were in attendance.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Pesola

- Working on failing pipes along M-123 in Paradise, watching pipes daily.
- Keeping a close eye on similar culvert and slope problems in Brimley.
- Keeping the Township's notified of the repairs happening.

Union President Hopper mentioned that this would be a good time to notify the public about the road problems. Manager Laitinen indicated that because they are MDOT roads that they would be the proper agency to do any publicizing.

Foreman Erickson

- Doing a lot of maintenance, sink holes, cold patching and grading
- Culvert steaming
- Crews have been very busy

Foreman McConkey

- Working on gravel roads
- Truck maintenance
- Brush hogging in Goetzville
- Sweeping corners on Drummond

Office Manager Decker

- Received revised FOIA policy this morning. The format is different, content is the same.
- Attended a meeting put on by Gallagher regarding the new IRS section 6055 & 6056 that will affect us next year. These are changes involving the reporting of health insurance benefits with employee W2's.
- Working on Accounts Payable

Project Manager Deatruck

- Attended the Asphalt Paving Association Conference in Mt Pleasant
- Attended a meeting in Newberry with Manager Laitinen and Engineer Krouth regarding the dispute over the final review process on Federal Aid jobs. MDOT's Tony Gretz has chosen to impose a new interpretation of an MDOT special provision, post project. This has caused final contractor payments and bonds to be held. Manager Laitinen said that they are not taking the situation lightly and have asked for it to be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration. Discussion Ensued.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Changing equipment over from winter to summer operations.
- No major equipment problems

Engineer Krouth

- Attended Rural Task Force Meeting followed by the National Functional Classification meeting.
- Attended Safety Meeting.
- Attended Little Rapids Project meeting, the project was re-advertised last Monday. We are working on plan to communicate with the residents of Sugar Island and other stakeholders in the project.

- Prepared Resolution #2015-03 to support Local Agency Funding for bridge repairs on Mackinac Trail over Chubb Creek.
- Several Township Road agreements were prepared for the upcoming construction season.

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.

#7 Freedom of Information Act Policy: The current policy has been updated to comply with law changes.

#8 Title VI Policy: No changes necessary.

#9 Drug Free Workplace Policy: In compliance with current law, no changes needed.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to reaffirm Board Policies 7, as amended, 8 and 9 as they currently read.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**INITIAL REVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:**

Commissioner Gagnon submitted a "Using Social Media to communicate with the Public" Policy draft. Manager Laitinen expressed his concern over the possibility of both negative and inaccurate information being spread throughout the community. Office Manager Decker stated that it would require constant monitoring and that the Website (chippewacountyroads.org) provides updated and accurate information and is already in place. Discussion Ensued. It was decided to research what other Government agencies are doing and see how it is working for them.

**APPROVAL OF RUDYARD TOWNSHIP ROAD AGREEMENT**

A Road agreement with Rudyard Township was presented to the Board for improvements to a portion of Meadow Lane.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the Township Road Agreement with Rudyard Township for improvements to Meadow Lane.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioner Ormsbee indicated his strong displeasure with the Chippewa County Commissioners decision to remove Medical and Retirement benefits from the Road Commissioners without prior notice or discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF PICKFORD TOWNSHIP ROAD AGREEMENTS**

Three Road Agreements with Pickford Township were presented to the Board for improvements to Gogomain Road.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the Township Road Agreements with Pickford Township for improvements to Gogomain Road.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

Engineer Krouth presented Resolution #2015-03 in support of Local Agency funding for bridge repairs on Mackinac Trail over Chub Creek.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to adopt Resolution #2015-03 in support of Local Agency funding for bridge repairs on Mackinac Trail over Chub Creek.

#### **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.**

#### **MANAGERS REPORT**

- Attended the Case Equipment show in Tomahawk WI. Looking at Motor Graders. Very good trip.
- Meet with the EUP Board of Realtors and gave them a Presentation on Proposition 1. Will be speaking at the League of Women's voters meeting this Saturday, on Radio Station 95.1 on Monday morning, Soo Lions Club on Tuesday, and two upcoming Rotary Club meetings. Also gave the presentation to the Employees at the Safety Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Safety meeting went well, several good presentations including BCBS Glidepath and Al Roden with Mackinaw Administrators.
- MSHA training will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Have been working on quotes for MDOT on replacing culverts, mainly on M-123 as additional maintenance funds became available. One fairly deep crossing is to be contracted out. The hope is to have the work completed before the summer traffic begins. Discussion ensued.
- Working on road estimates for Rudyard Township, one for the 23 Mile stream crossing and for the first segment of Prairie Road.
- Again mentioned the Newberry meeting and his intention to collect information from the other Counties and report it to CRAM.
- New pick-ups are on the way. We will be receiving one a week for the next three weeks.

- We should start seeing the new big trucks the first week of June. Have been contacted by Baraga County, they are interested in purchasing our used equipment.
- The job description for the new office person has been fine tuned and we will proceed soon with advertising to fill the position.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Foreman Pescola informed the Board that Eckerman employee David Mills is home recovering from his recent surgery. All wished him well.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Timmer noted that he had attended CRAMS 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Commissioners Seminar. He said that is was a good Conference and was highly attended.

Commissioner Timmer would like us to put in place an internal Emergency/Crisis policy in case of a disaster. Manager Laitinen noted that we are included in Tim McKee's Countywide Emergency Plan. He would also like us to look at establishing a Nepotism/Hiring policy.

Commissioner Timmer also stated his disappointment with the County Commissions decision to reduce benefits without notice.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

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Amy L. Price  
Secretary for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman