

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 28, 2014.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Timmer, LaJoie and Ormsbee, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Clerk McDowell, Assistant Engineer Deatrick, Foreman Erickson and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Foreman McConkey, Foreman Pesola, Chief Mechanic Avery and Surveyor Wiggins.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to add CRAM Board of Directors' Ballot under new business and approve agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie that the Payroll in the amount of \$154,045.03 and Vouchers in the amount of \$50,782.27 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Performing winter maintenance
- Performing equipment maintenance
- Had good response from all employees this past weekend during the storm.

Office Manager Decker

- Year end financials are about completed, but still waiting for final MTF funds to come in which will be sometime in February. Year end numbers are within 97% to 99% within our budgeted figures.
- Placed an order for another 400 blades, which will hopefully get us through the winter. Approximate cost 55,000.00.

Assistant Engineer Deatrick

- Presented plans for Federal Aid project, 1½ Mile Road on Sugar Island. Will be submitting the plans after Board approval.
- Working on federal aid project for repairs to bridge approaches. Working on design for guardrail replacement on Bound Road bridge approach.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-Done

MANAGERS REPORT

- Received notification of approval from FHWA for reimbursement for storm damage on Sugar Island. Approved to receive up to \$820,000.00. Will be working on submitting supporting documentation for each damage site. Billings maybe submitted for any work performed so far, but any remaining permanent repair work will be billed as it is completed.

MOTION by Commissioner Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie that a letter of recognition be drafted and sent to the Sault Tribe for Wendy Hoffman's diligent efforts in helping us secure disaster aid for Sugar Island.

MOTION CARRIED

- Gave update on status of health care. We have received the final numbers on the 000 division and will be working to set up a meeting with union steward and union team as soon as we can.
- The Supplemental Appropriations Bill appears to have support to have it introduced along with a substitute bill once it hits the floor.
- Was contacted by Representative Foster's office regarding project applications being taken for surplus funds available through the Rural Road Risk Fund. We have submitted an estimate for Riverside Drive from 22 Mile Road north to the bridge.
- Discussed article published in the Roads & Bridges by MDOT Director. He made accusations about Michigan Legislators laying down on the job.
- Working on final details for the Little Rapids contract and should have it ready for our next meeting.

Chairman Timmer presented notice of Straits Area Council Meeting to be held at Audies in Mackinaw City on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. No action required.

Assistant Engineer Deatrick presented Plan Sheets for the 1½ Mile Road project on Sugar Island for approval. Total estimate was in the amount of \$755,868.77 originally programmed at \$780,000.00.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the Boards signatures on the 1½ Mile Road Plan Sheets.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen presented annual request for use of Road Commission grader at the I-500 track during the race this Saturday. We have two volunteer drivers to operate the grader. One individual is a current employee the other is a retiree.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize the use of the Road Commission grader during the I-500 race.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen informed the Board that he did also authorize the use of the grader at the Kinross race track.

Manager Laitinen presented approval of contractual wage increase of 2% for all union staff and asked that the same be extended to non-union staff. The rate increase will be effective 02-01-14.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve both non union and union wage increase of 2% effective 02-01-14.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen presented Financial Audit proposal from Anderson, Tackman & Company for 2013, 2014, and 2015. Services for 2013 would be 7,500, for 2014 would be 7,600 and for 2015 would be 7,700. He indicated we have been very happy with their work.

Manager Laitinen reported on past fees charged and indicated that there seems to be a lot more work because of the new reporting requirements established under GASB.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the three year Financial Audit proposal with Anderson, Tackman & Company with the understanding that Office Manager Decker try and negotiate a better rate.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion ensued on status of being able to send the new truck to body builders.

NEW BUSINESS

- CRAM Board of Directors' Ballot

Discussion on the two candidates, Mr. Jim Iwanicki, from Marquette and Mr. Lester Livermore, Mackinac running for the CRAM Board of Directors, which is a three year term.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to cast our vote for Mr. Jim Iwanicki for CRAM Board of Directors.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioners Ormsbee and LaJoie stated crews are doing an excellent job.

Chairman Timmer reported on meeting he attended with Sault Tribe. He stated the tribe was extremely impressed with how our staff responded to the emergency situation on Sugar Island. Aaron Payment, Chairman of Sault Tribe and tribal residents of Sugar Island would like to recognize all the employees who worked on the damage sites. They asked for a photo of all involved staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman