

**A REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan on August 25, 2016.

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

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Project Manager Jere, Clerk Price, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

**ABSENT:** Surveyor Wiggins, Engineer Krouth and Union President Hopper.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to amend the Agenda to include Discussion of the speed limit on 3 Mile Road.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$123,284.61 and Vouchers in the amount of \$695,110.88 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on August 11, 2016.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Soo Township resident Steve Welch of 1498 3 Mile Road was in attendance and presented the Board with a petition signed by the residents of 3 Mile Road asking for a reduction of the speed limit. Mr. Welch commented that it has become very dangerous for residents of 3 Mile Road to turn into and pull out of their driveways. Manager Laitinen informed Mr. Welch that during the August 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting that it was decided to install 4 way stop signs along 3 Mile at the Seymour and Shunk intersections. Those changes will be taking place as early as next week. Manager Laitinen supports the lower speed limit and recommends placing the new stop signs and then request a speed study to be done.

## STAFF REPORTS

Foreman McConkey

- Working on 20 Mile Road. Cutting out a hill and applying heavy rip-rap to the portions with steep slopes.
- Ditching on Riverside Dr. to improve drainage.
- Dragging Roads and general maintenance.

Foreman Erickson

- Lockhart Rd. fill job is coming along good. The Touri pit on 11 Mile Road will be pretty well exhausted by the end of the project. The pit will make for a good wetland conversation site.
- Finally got some moisture and the crew have been out dragging the gravel roads.
- AMZ crew is staying busy. Working on State ramps.
- Screen Plant is down for repairs.
- Rental Excavator has been delivered.

Foreman Goodman

- Dug hole for the Teets Road box culvert job, drove piling. The box culvert is in place and we have started back filling.
- Taking care of washouts after heavy rains, N. Hulbert Rd. held well.

Office Manager Decker

- No Report

David Deatruck

- Working on Federal Aid Reports.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop doing well, continuing to go through the winter trucks.
- Radiator failed on the Screen Plant, it has been sent for repair and should be back on Monday.
- Trying a new brush cutter head on the excavator.

- Started power washing the building.
- Submitted equipment needs list to the Board for review.

Project Manager Jere

- Pickford job went well.
- Payne & Dolan and most of the subcontractors did a good job.
- The concrete subcontractor was and continues to be a problem.

#### **MANAGERS REPORT**

- Manager Laitinen thanked Dave Deatruck for returning from retirement to help during Engineer Krouth's leave.
- Started posting to the Road Commission's Facebook Page. Posted information about the upcoming stop sign changes and received good feedback.
- The stop signs for the 3 Mile and Mackinac Trail installs are here. We are waiting on the 4-way sign, the road line painters and temporary rumble strips. Cost for the changeover is approximately \$10,000.00.
- Attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure meeting in Marquette. The biggest priorities being discussed were Roads and Bridges followed by Internet. The Association was well represented and it was a very worthwhile meeting.
- Continuing to work on the local paving package.
- Little Rapids Project is moving along well. There was an injury at the work site. A piece of the sheet piling fell from a height of about 12 feet and hit one of the workers. He was treated for his injuries and released. Payne and Dolan and Zenith Tech both took the situation very seriously. The last piece of piling is expected to be set tomorrow. Concrete pour to be completed by Saturday and the beams will be placed next Wednesday. Each beam is 125 feet long and weighs 93k pounds.
- U.P. Engineers were out and drilled the site for the 12 Mile Road box culvert. Final design will be done soon; there is a September 15<sup>th</sup> delivery date for the culvert.
- Teets Road job is reaching completion. The guys worked hard and did a great job.
- Attorney Ed McNeely has the final document from the DEQ and is reviewing it.
- The rental Cat 320 excavator has been delivered.

- Had a visit from the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge program inspector. They pulled a random Bridge file and went through the documents. It was a good inspection.
- Thank You to the crew for their hard work.

Commissioner Ormsbee commented that the bumps on Mackinac Trail are much better after they were cut down. He asked Manager Laitinen if he knew when the Railroad crossing on M-28 would be paved. He answered that he did not know.

#### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS - NONE**

#### **PROPOSED UNIFIED PERMIT FORMS AND FEES**

Manager Laitinen told the Board that there is a push by CRA to unify permit forms and permit fees statewide. He presented examples of the forms that have been developed by CRA and the fee structure. We are still waiting for the Utility & Driveway permits. Chairman Timmer mentioned that he would like to see us comply with CRA's fee structure but be able to waive driveway permit fees if warranted. Manager Laitinen recommend holding off on any action until the other approved permit forms are received.

#### **AWARD OF DRAG BLADE BID**

Manager Laitinen went over the four bids received. Truck & Trailer was low bidder on the drag and wing blades. D.A. MacPherson was lowest on the plow shears. His recommendation is to award the drag, wing and scarifier blades to Truck and Trailer and the plow shears to D.A. MacPherson.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to award the drag, wing and scarifier blades to Truck and Trailer and the plow shears to D.A. MacPherson.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **DISCUSSION OF POST 65 RETIREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

Manager Laitinen informed the Board the provider for prescription coverage for our over 65 Retirees will not continue to provide the multiple suffixes, especially the ones with very low co-pays. This would be an across the board change on Retiree coverage. Manager Laitinen then described an in-house reimbursement system that we could implement to cover the difference. Notices will be sent explaining the changes to the benefit levels which will be effective 1-1-2017.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to send a notice to the Retiree's explaining the changes in their prescription coverage and re-imburement procedure and to have 44 North look into combining coverage's next year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Soo Township Resident Steve Welch expressed interest in the Touri Road land when we are done with it. Manager Laitinen explained that we do not sell those properties, we hold them for our wetland mitigation requirements. He mentioned a Wetland Bank system is in the process of being setup. Mr. Welch commented that he is interested in information on the Wetland Bank.

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore mentioned that the Chippewa County Fair starts Sunday. The painting of the water tower by the prison has been completed. The 35 mph speed limit on the Short Cut Road seems to be working fine.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Ormsbee thanked Chief Mechanic Marsh for the list of equipment needs as requested. He told the crew to keep up the good work.

Foreman Erickson mentioned that a sign truck body should be added to the equipment needs list.

Commissioner Gagnon stated that he is impressed by the work our crews do that no other Road Commissioner workers do.

Chairman Timmer mentioned that he too is impressed by the abilities of our workers and their safety record. He then commented that he would like to see the passing zone markings looked at for correctness and safety.

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  
Board Secretary

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman of the Board