

**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 June 5, 2014.

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

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

**ABSENT:** Clerk McDowell, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Pesola, Chief Mechanic Avery.

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie that the Payroll in the amount of \$113,365.77 and Vouchers in the amount of \$232,547.33 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 May 22, 2014 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Jim Moore, Kinross Township Supervisor indicated that he had noticed some improvement on Mackinac Trail and that the frost heave on many roads is improving. Supervisor Moore asked about ditching on Thompson and Ploegstra Roads. Discussion Ensued. Supervisor Moore indicated that the Township would like to draft a Letter of Agreement outlining how the Township and County workers would work together when providing repairs to the storm drain system.

Bill Hopper asked if our web-site has a culvert/driveway policy posted? He was informed that at this time it does not and that it would be a good addition.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Erickson

- Changing bad culverts & ditch clean outs.
- AMZ crew is out patching.
- Screen Plant in is Barbeau.
- Stocking piling gravel on Sugar Island

- We have a couple of closures on Gravel roads as a result of continuing Spring Break-up.

Foreman McConkey

- Dragging roads, brush hog out.
- General road maintenance
- Small bridge project on Tone Road east of M-129 going well.

Assistant Engineer Deatruck

- Ploegstra Road going well, about ½ done with culvert replacements.
- Received progress schedule for Sugar Island. Payne and Dolan will be starting after Ploegstra Road.
- Attended a pre-con meeting for the Bay Mills sewer replacement in front of the Kings Club Casino.
- Has been receiving many culvert/driveway requests.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**-None

**MANAGERS REPORT**

- The Arbitration Hearing for the posting grievance was held. A decision will take one to two weeks.
- Met with Pete Paramski to review the Mackinac Trail detour route during the I-75 construction project. MDOT plans on doing a 1.5" overlay and asked if we were interested in adding more funds and increasing the coverage. This stretch of Mackinac Trail is already part of the 5 year plan and that program does not allow for changes. More discussion ensued.
- Some clay side roads are still experiencing frost issues.
- Had meeting with MSU at the Dunbar Forest location. Permission has been granted to relocate two sections of Scenic Drive to protect the road and the river bank. Discussion ensued.
- Had meeting with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & Watershed Group. They have committed \$85,000 in funding toward upgrading culverts along the Charlotte River. Total cost will be over \$100,000. The Township will be contacted for matching funds. We have all of 2015 to complete the project.
- Discussion was held regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday and the floating Holiday. The Union was asked to discuss at their next meeting how they would like to use the days off and report back.
- Gravel crushing is taking place on Sugar Island and Kinross is next.
- Discussion was opened regarding the need for another vehicle. Authorization was requested to use the State Bid Site to purchase a new GMC Terrain.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to purchase a GMC Terrain from the State Bid Site.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Salt Barn Plans are about 80% completed. Site work is on schedule. Approval was requested to go to bid as soon as the plans are complete.

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to advertise for bids as soon as the site plans for the Salt Barn are ready

**MOTION CARRIED**

- An update was given on the status of the State Funding Bill. The funding package is on the Senate agenda today for a vote. The Governor, Lt. Governor, area Senators and CRAM are working to get it through. Urgency and media coverage has dropped. Commissioner Ormsbee asked about the funding through the BIA. Manager Laitinen indicated that the contracts are being processed.

The ad was run for the Engineer position, three applications were received. Discussion ensued regarding the various applicants. Approval was requested by the Supt/Mgr to hire Alicia Askwith for the Engineer position.

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to hire Alicia Askwith for the Engineer position.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion was held regarding the election of the 2014/2015 CRASIF Board of Trustees.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to cast their vote for the three incumbents.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Office Manager Decker asked the Board for approval to proceed with the annual dust control program with the Townships.

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to match each Township 1/3 of the cost up to \$1000 towards their dust control programs.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Moore asked if the Tribes commitment for paving some of the streets in Kincheloe is still in place. Supt/Mgr Laitinen indicated yes.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Ormsbee indicated that he is seeing much improvement on the roads and wanted to remind the crew to work safely.

Chairman Timmer indicated that he is seeing a lot of pothole patching and reiterated how important safety is to our crews.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

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Amy L. Price  
Deputy Secretary for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman