

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 March 9, 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, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Engineer Krouth, Project Manager Jere, Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$170,702.12 and Vouchers in the amount of \$250,437.31 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 February 23, 2017 and the special meeting minutes from February 14, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Review:

The following policies were reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board with no changes. The Seasonal Road Policy, and the Policy on Acceptance of Roads onto the County Road System.

The Policy on the Purchase of Service Time. Manager Laitinen reviewed the policy as written and went over the proposed change. The following language was added to the policy.

"Also, The Municipal Retirement System of Michigan does recognize years of service worked for other MERS employers as seamless years of service counting toward eligibility to retire. These years of service are accounted for separately and are not included in the final benefit calculation relating to the employee's CCRC pension but they do count toward eligibility to retire. The Chippewa County Road Commission will recognize up to five (5) years of service with a previous MERS employer as qualifying years of service toward eligibility to retire with the pension and

health benefits in effect in the collective bargaining agreement at the time of retirement.”

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve and modify the Policy on the Purchase of Service Time to accept MERS time with another employer up to 5 years.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Candidates for MCRCSIP Board of Directors.

Manager Laitinen notified the Board that Michigan County Road Commission Self Insurance Pool is looking for any interested persons to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board meets quarterly at various locations throughout the State. The newly appointed members will be announced in July.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor informed the Board that next fall they will be recognizing the 40 year anniversary of the closing of the Kincheloe AFB. Mr. Moore also noted that the MTA meeting will be held tonight at 6:30 at the Kinross Township Hall. Lastly he reported that the Township had a water main break on M-80. He thanked the Road Commission for their help while the repairs were made.

Union President Hopper thanked the Board for the change to the Policy on the Purchase of Time.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Mixed bag of weather, wind-snow-ice.
- Back gravel roads are in tough shape.
- Removing snowpack from ditches to improve water flow.
- Crew doing a great job.

Foreman Goodman

- Roller coaster of weather.
- Working on ditch clearing and water problems.
- Gravel Roads a muddy mess, to soft to work on.
- The crew did a great job responding to the M-80 water main break.

Foreman McConkey

- Keeping up with all of the weather changes.
- Working on ditches, trying to get the melting water away.
- Mechanic shop repairing and returning trucks to service very quickly.

Office Manager Decker

- Working with the auditors this week
- The 457 switch over in two weeks, on track.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop has been busy
- Priority's always changing.
- Mechanics doing well.

Union President Hopper - Asked who was the holder of the Empower deposits. Office Manager Decker replied Greatwest Trust.

MANAGERS REPORT

- Weight restrictions are in effect. Project Manager Jere is issuing permits when possible. We have had good compliance. One individual on Drummond Island has had his permit revoked.
- Manager Laitinen informed the Board that he has been watching Senate Bill #157 this is a bill to require contracts for certain public works project to have certain provisions; to require competition for the use or supply of certain materials and products on certain public works projects; to impose certain conditions and provide for certain exemptions; and to impose certain powers and duties on certain public entities and certain state and local officials. This could affect future road projects.
- Manager Laitinen updated the Board on the progress of the Wetland Banking Board. He said the outline of the program is going well and that they hope to be letting projects soon. Discussion followed.
- The Rural Task Force held a public hearing here on March 3rd to seek public input for possible STIP projects.
- The Bay Mills Tribe will be holding a meeting to review their road inventory. Updating their inventory may result in possible funding increases.
- The disc mower for the John Deere tractor has been ordered. Delivery time is 6 to 9 weeks.
- Manager Laitinen reported that the new Dodge Ram 5500 sign truck has been ordered as well.
- A second Water Main break took place within the City Limits at the Easterday Overpass. We provided traffic control and signage while the repairs were taking place.
- Documents were received from Attorney Peter Wendling regarding Right-of-Way law. Chairman Timmer asked Manager Laitinen to forward the information to CRA.
- A Bruce Township resident has complained about flooding along their portion of Ridge Road. Access in one direction can be blocked during heavy snow melting but the other direction from their home is clear for travel.

- Manager Laitinen wanted to acknowledge the excellent job done by the Eckerman crew on cleaning up the garage.
- Lastly Manager Laitinen mentioned that he will be gone for the next scheduled meeting due to the Bridge Conference.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Timmer asked about the Graymont Mining development plans. He commented that road traffic is sure to increase. Discussion ensued on how fund possible road improvements.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore mentioned that the wall map looks great. He also asked Manager Laitinen if he had any recent communication with the Sault Tribe regarding the funding for John Patrick Rd.

Union President Hopper mentioned that the MDOT website shows work being done at Black Creek and asked about road closures during the project. Manager Laitinen responded that it was his understanding that half of the road will be worked on at a time, no shutdown will be necessary.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee said he really likes the wall map.

Commissioner Gagnon indicated that he liked the interaction between the Townships and the Road Commission at the R.T.F. Meeting.

Chairman Timmer mentioned how impressed he was with the response and the skill set of our staff when responding to the wind storm. With trees down all over the County we were able to keep the trees cleared and the roads open. He informed the Board and Staff that the CRA website had been hacked; the offenders were looking for money for return of the data taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Amy L Price
Clerk for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman