

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was duly held in their offices located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on April 10, 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, Assistant Engineer Deatrick, Deputy Clerk Price, Foreman Pesola, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Clerk McDowell, Surveyor Wiggins, Office Mgr. Decker, Chief Mechanic Avery.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee that the Payroll in the amount of \$158,367.06 and Vouchers in the amount of \$498,790.38 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee and **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 27, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Pesola

- Battling water. Thawing ditches and steaming drains.
- Discussed how the night crew did an excellent job prepping ditches for the day crew to steam.

Foreman Erickson

- His crews are also busy dealing with water problems.
- Mentioned that some locations would be good future project sites to avoid Spring runoff problems.

Foreman McConkey

- His crews are also busy dealing with water problems.

Discussion ensued regarding the water problems around the County and the possibility of adding additional steamers.

Assistant Engineer Deatrick

- Received proposal from MDOT for 1 ½ Mile on S.I.
- Has been working on final estimates for the Federal Aid jobs.
- Mentioned that permit requests have slowed and discussed which roads we are able to permit for truck traffic and why.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Audit meeting has been scheduled for April 24th following the regular meeting.
- Gravel bids are out and will be open on April 23rd.
- Speaker of the House discussed a proposal on possible changes to how the Road Commissions are funded.
- CRAM noted that Road complaints are on the top of the Legislators call list.
- Mr. North has been chosen as our arbitrator with the Union. No date for the hearing has been set yet. Also noted that we have received a third grievance from the Union regarding Retiree health care.
- Meet with URS last week regarding the Little Rapids project. Permits are in the process, RFQ almost developed. Working on the language for the bid proposal.
- Meet with Gary Nitz regarding Salt Shed plans. Considering adding a lean-to on the south side to store and protect equipment. Discussion ensued.
- We received \$295,000 from the extra State funding recently announced. Discussion ensued on determining how to book and use the funds. Funds will be divided between Local and Primary roads.
- Will be meeting next week with both the Soo and Kinross Small Urban Area Task Force's and the Rural Task Force. Not planning on adding any new projects, meeting mostly to update and balance project estimates.
- The MCRCSIP and CRASIF joint safety meeting is scheduled for April 22 in Mackinac City. Rob and the three area Foreman will be attending.
- The in-house safety meeting is scheduled for May 20th.
- MSHA training will take place on May 6th and 7th.
- Night coverage will be ending this weekend.

Manager Laitinen presented Resolution 2014-01 to the Board for approval of MDOT contract #14-5140 to pave 1 ½ Mile Road from East Shore Dr. westerly 6.70 miles to the ferry dock landing.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee and **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve Resolution no. 2014-01.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Spent time discussing the various retirements ahead and the additional staffing needed to accomplish the upcoming Township projects and County wide maintenance work. Manager Laitinen indicated that several of the current temps are excellent workers and he would like to keep them on. Commissioner Ormsbee asked if current staff will be given the opportunity to change garages. Mgr. Laitinen indicated the option will be made available. Commissioner Timmer asked about hiring now vs. this fall. Mgr. Laitinen indicated that the work is there to justify hiring now.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee and **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to proceed with the hiring of six employees now and the deferred hiring of a seventh in the fall

MOTION CARRIED

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee

- Indicated that the crews are all working hard, even saw Foreman Erickson operating a shovel.
- He asked about the rut in the road on Mackinac Trail from the Bowling Alley south for about a half a mile and what we can do to resolve it.

Commissioner LaJoie

- Said he sees the water getting away and the crews are working very hard.

Commissioner Timmer

- He thinks considering the extreme winter that we came out of it pretty well.
- Stated that he will attending the upcoming Commissioners Conference and CRAM Conference.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Amy L Price
Deputy Clerk

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman

