

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, MI on October 1, 2020.

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, Engineer VanDorn, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Chief Mechanic Marsh.

GUEST PRESENT: None.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$148,373.57 and Vouchers in the amount of \$624,830.45 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from September 17, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer VanDorn

- Six Mile Bridge -
 - Met with OHM to discuss site condition and constructability.
 - TS&L plans have been submitted to MDOT and approved.
 - Working with Bay Mills Tribe for letter of support and order to begin BIA funding request.
- Whitefish Point -
 - Completed plans from Sidock should be here next week.
 - Plans can be resubmitted for GI Review.
- Local Paving -
 - Looking at having paving wrapped up by mid to end of October.

- Shunk Road -
 - Received some comments on NEPA forms and to resubmit for clarification going forward.

Office Manager Decker

- We have heard from other counties that the MTF for August was up approximately 20% from last year. In looking at the projections for August, we appear to be in-line with what was expected with an increase of almost 20%.

Superintendent Erickson

- Crews are finishing up Nicolet Road and Four Mile.
- Gravel roads were in good shape until the relentless rain came. When the rain stops there will be some clean-up work to do on those.
- Winter prep work is starting. Snow stakes have been delivered and placing will start.
- Brush-hog is out working. Discussion ensued.

Foreman Goodman

- Finishing up Tahqua Trail with top soil and seed/mulch. The crew did a nice job up there.
- Dragging and blading is on-going.
- The brush-hog is down. The boom is not working properly and the tractor is showing signs of wear and tear caused by the boom.

Foreman Rye

- Two street reconstructions in Pickford are complete. Paving should occur in coming weeks.
- Crews will be on Drummond Island for the next couple of weeks.
- Brush-hog tractor has some minor repairs needed.

Clerk Christensen - reported by Clerk Livermore

- Al Roden, from MCRCSIP, will be here next week to provide two days of OSHA training for our crew.
- Applied for another grant to help cover payroll and benefit related costs during the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Still waiting to hear back on the other grants we have applied for. Due to the identification number used being the same as the County, we have notified the County Clerk's office to let us know if they see it come through.
- Continuing to work with garages, addressing the issues identified in the MIOSHA reports. All minor and being taken care of.

Union President Mills

- All is good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing at this time.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Working with UP Counties, sharing data regarding the routes maintained, including the number of routes and miles covered on the routes. The average route appears to be 30 miles and ours are a little shorter, averaging closer to 25 miles.
- There is a General Policy Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, October 12 via ZOOM. Will present an update of the JATC activities at the meeting.
- Federal Aid buyout - MDOT will now allow counties to purchase aid funds from other counties, however a new change will allow rural funds purchased to be used for urban projects.
- As mentioned by Clerk Christensen, several employees and management will participate in the OSHA training.
- The Pennington Road gate issue is working itself out. All parties have verbally agreed to a resolution that will involve an abandonment request. The request and communication with the township and DNR should be done in the next week or so.
- Attended the virtual MERS Business Meeting last week. Mary Sholander was elected to the board. Not much to report as the format and communication from MERS regarding the sessions was presented electronically only. Prior years provided better communication and mailed schedules with session information that was easy to locate.
- Started to look at 2021 budget and up-coming projects. 2020 had significant heavy equipment purchases. Would like to consider a focus on ancillary equipment purchases and growing our general fund balance.
- A big THANK YOU to our crews for the work this year. After riding around to view the projects completed this year, it is very apparent that we have some excellent workmanship and pride in the work we do.
- Thank you to the crews for another safe year. We received our award from our Workers Compensation pool. Again, Chippewa County has been recognized for the best safety record in the state for our line of business. Your work directly impacts our mod factor, and by working safely and keeping that factor under 1, we continue to pay a discounted rate on our insurance premium. Thank you for all you do.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of MERS Delegate - At the September 17, 2020 meeting, Chairman Timmer inquired about the MERS delegate form and voiced the intention of the board to support Mary Sholander in her running for the MERS Board. The MERS Business meeting took place on Thursday, September 24, 2020 and as the Delegate, Manager

Laitinen voted on behalf of Chippewa County Road Commission.
This appointment needs to be official.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to appoint Manager Laitinen as the appointed Delegate and Clerk Livermore as the appointed alternate Delegate for the 2020 Annual MERS Business meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer echoed his appreciation for the work of the crews and commented on how nice Tahqua Trail looks.

Chairman Timmer and Commissioner Gagnon wished everyone a "STAY SAFE".

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman