

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 September 6, 2018.

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, Clerk Price, and Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Surveyor Wiggins, Project Manager Jere, Chief Mechanic Marsh

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$134,269.92 and Vouchers in the amount of \$261,568.75 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes held on August 23, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rudyard resident Steve Baer was present to address Manager Laitinen and the Board. The Baer's owns East Lake Resort in Moran, it is accessed by East Lake Road which is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Mr. Baer noted that he is happy to see the new box culvert going in and then asked if there are any plans to improve the rest of the road. He is concerned with the poor drainage that causes the Road to become impassible in the Spring and after heavy or extended rain. Mr. Baer noted that he contacted the Forest Service to request that gravel be spread on the road and was told to contact the Road Commission for general maintenance. Manager Laitinen agreed that the Road is in need of improvement but the improvements needed are beyond the scope of maintenance. An offer was made to the Forest Service that if they supplied the gravel we would haul and spread it, they declined. Manager Laitinen said that the drainage could be improved by rolling back the berms and spreading gravel between the two culverts and he would direct the Area Foreman to proceed.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Crews finishing up Townhall Rd on Sugar Island.
- Gravel Rd maintenance.
- AMZ crew will be out patching for a couple more weeks.
- Brushhog is clearing along seasonal roads.

- The screen plant has moved back to the Soo.

Foreman McConkey

- Crews continuing work on Rocky Point Road. Slope and shoulder work remain.
- AMZ crew working in the area.
- Mowing complete for the season.
- Dozer went down but was repaired quickly.

Foreman Goodman

- Continued work on Tremblay Road.
- East Lake Road box culvert project prep and placement.
- Back to Tremblay Road.

Office Manager Decker

- Blade bids were returned and opened.
- Used Equipment Sale bid sheets are out and available online. They are due back on 9/18/18.
- Working with Chief Mechanic Marsh on the GPS systems installed.

Union President Mills

- Asked if Manager Laitinen had received the Union Contract signature page back from United Steelworkers? He replied no, it has not been returned.

Managers Report

- This past week was "Fair Week". The Road Commission has a strong presence at the Chippewa County Fair. Several employees volunteer hours and hours of time overseeing the 4H program. We are also well represented by the children/teens of employees that show their livestock. Many of them with great success. Thank you and Congratulations to all.
- Manager Laitinen also wanted to recognize U.P. Pipe and thank them for their support. They were present at the Fair Market sale and purchased several 4H animal's raised by children of CCRC employees.
- Surveyor Wiggins was off last week so the Manager got to go back to doing some survey work.
- East Lake Road Box culvert project went very well. The crane was on time and all went as planned. Several Schoolcraft County employees were present to watch the process.
- Statewide 84 contractors have locked out their operators from returning to work pending contract negotiations. Locally there are several projects that are at a standstill. The outcome and timeline is unknown. Discussion Ensued.
- Elmers in not affected by the lock out and will be setting the box culvert next week on 9 Mile as planned.

- Have been in contact with Chris Olson with the Chippewa County EDC regarding ownership and classification of Industrial Park Dr. in Kinross. In order for this road to be eligible for Federal Aid it must be classified as a minor collector or greater. Manager Laitinen mentioned that it may also be eligible for Category A funds based on potential job growth. Discussion ensued.
- A request was received from Attorney Adrienne Wolf to be put on the October 4th Board Meeting Agenda. They are requesting that Farm Truck Trail in Paradise be reclassified from its Seasonal designation to a year-round designation.
- MDEQ will be out doing soil erosion inspections soon. Please check jobsites after recent rains to insure compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Act 51 Annual Certification

Manager Laitinen reviewed the Act 51 Annual Certification.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to authorize Chairman Timmer to sign the Annual Act 51 Certification form.

MOTION CARRIED

Sugar Island Township Road Agreement

Manager Laitinen reviewed the scope of work to be done on Village Road. This project will extend for 1.35 miles and has a Township share of \$97,637.00.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize the Township Road Agreement with Sugar Island.

MOTION CARRIED

Winter Blade Bids

Bids were received for drag blades, wing blades, scarifier blades and plow shears. Prices are up from the last time that we went to bid in 2016. The most heavily used blade is the 3/4x8x72, the low bidder is H & L Mesabi at \$19.83 per foot. The Manager's recommendation is to accept the H & L Mesabi bid for all the blade inventory and accept all bidders for the plow shears.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to accept the H & L Mesabi bid for all the blade inventory and accept all bidders for the plow shears.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kinross Township Moore noted that Manager Laitinen had not mentioned paving Kinross Roads in his report. Manager Laitinen responded that he was reporting on earthwork jobs and paving has not yet been bid out.

Resident Steve Baer asked who paid for the new box culvert on East Lake Rd? Manager Laitinen answered that it was funded by the Forest Service.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Chairman Timmer mentioned that the price of the truck blower owned by the EDC has come down and we may want to consider placing a bid. He asked the Foreman to work closely with the School transportation agencies to reduce interruption to bussing while we continue our road projects.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 A.M.

Amy L. Price
Clerk

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman