

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 February 4, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer (via ZOOM), Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon (via ZOOM), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen Foreman Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman.

GUEST PRESENT: Trout Lake Township Supervisor Dave Hillman

Commissioner Ormsbee accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$175,122.14 and Vouchers in the amount of \$262,095.53 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 from January 21, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None at this time.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- The MTF disbursement received for December was close to normal.
- The net effect of COVID on our financial position was approximately \$1M. If we would have followed the original plan and paid cash for our capital outlays for 2020, we could have suffered a significant impact from the change in anticipated state funding. By choosing to finance \$1M for purchases of trucks and heavy equipment, we were able to minimize the negative impact and preserve our cashflow position.

Superintendent Erickson

- No report.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Busy brushing and working on repairs in the garage.

Clerk Christensen

- We have received notification that we did not qualify for the Payroll Grant that was submitted.
- The retiree plaques have been ordered and received.
- The emergency information folders for the foremen are almost complete. These folders contain policy information, emergency contact information for their crew, accident report forms, etc.
- The glove box information packets have been completed and sent to the garages to be put in the vehicles.
- Worked with Frank to identify the remaining vehicles in need of GPS units and activate them in Fleet Complete.

Union President Mills

- All good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- All contractual pay adjustments have been input with the effective date of February 1.
- Was appointed to CRA's Finance and Human Resource committee by the Straits Area Council on Tuesday. Office appointment should be confirmed by the incoming CRA president at the Summer meeting.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Working on final program application with OHM for 6 Mile Road. Waiting on funding information from BIA.
- Attending general policy committee meeting next week. Looking forward to some good discussion to come from that group.
- We had a minor mishap in the Eckerman sand shed. The bucket to the loader got up in the trusses and did some damage. Our crew was able to make the repairs, with minimal expense and no need for an insurance claim.
- Working on engineering for the new salt barn to be built in Goetzville. Hope to have a final construction agreement next week.
- Those who signed up for the COVID vaccine have begun getting the second dose. Our crew have experienced very little in the way of symptoms or severe side effects.
- The request for bids for demolition of two of our abandoned garages and current salt barn (Trout Lake, Paradise, Goetzville respectively) should go out today.
- The 2% contractual increase has been implemented for all union employees and annual reviews have been completed for all non-union staff. and the managers review should be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

A.) Capital Outlay Purchases.

- i. Backhoe Purchase (2)
 - i. 2020 Model (John Deere 410) on MIDeal - \$121,000
 - ii. 2021 Model (John Deere 410) on MIDeal - \$123,000
- ii. Etnyre Lowboy MIDeal - \$86,311
- iii. Monroe Front Snow Plow (3) MIDeal - \$27,645 total (\$9,215 each)
- iv. Monroe Front V-Plow (1) MIDeal - \$9,556

Chief Mechanic Marsh presented specifications and timing of purchases, noting the total purchase amount was nearly \$4,500 under the budgeted amount.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the purchase of two (2) backhoes, the lowboy trailer, three (3) front plows, and a V-plow as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

B.) Send \$150K to Morgan Stanley OPEB account.

During last month's meeting with Jessica Fitzgerald at Morgan Stanley, she indicated the Road Commission's OPEB account portfolio benefited in 2020 from some well-timed deposits based on where the market was at the time of the deposit and performance of the market after. While the timing in 2020 was not intentional, Jessica has been informed the Road Commission will have funds to deposit in 2021 and we would appreciate any guidance on favorable timing. Now is one of those times.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to transfer \$150K to the OPEB account held at Morgan Stanley.

MOTION CARRIED

C.) Review/Reaffirm Policies.

- i. Policy #5 - Road Commission Board Travel

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to reaffirm Policy #5.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii. Policy #6 - Mailbox Replacement

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to reaffirm Policy #6.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners Comments

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer recapped the news released this week regarding the development of property in Kinross for a new rocket launch command center. Discussion ensued.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman