

**A REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on December 17, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Ormsbee, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Krouth, Project Manager Deatruck, Clerk Price, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Hopper.

**ABSENT:** Surveyor Wiggins

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$127,759.24 and Vouchers in the amount of \$451,774.41 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 December 3, 2015 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Pesola

- Gravel roads are taking a beating with all the rain
- Repaired a washed out road in Rudyard and one in Brimley
- Pipe changes in Rudyard
- Equipment in good shape, thanks to Chief Mechanic Marsh

Project Manager Deatruck

- The Gogomain Road Safety Project has been submitted to FHWA for funding. Discussion ensued

Engineer Krouth

- Contract documents for the Pavement Marking Package came in and will be in the January letting.
- Working on DEQ application and SHPO letter for the Charlotte River project.

Office Manager Decker

- Working on 2016 budget and year-end
- Budget Hearing will be December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Foreman Erickson

- Gravel Road Maintenance
- Equipment Maintenance
- Clearing trees in shady areas
- Water and drainage problems

Foreman McConkey

- High water everywhere, roads taking a beating
- Doing some cold patching
- Equipment Maintenance
- Gaines Hwy drainage problem

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Staying busy going through all the equipment
- Plenty of maintenance to be done

Union President Hopper

- Asked if the new Insurance rates are in for the renewal.

#### **MANAGERS REPORT**

- Working with Office Manager Decker on 2016 Budget
- Attended MTA Meeting, discussed Federal Funding
- Attended two State Negotiating Meetings in Mt. Pleasant. Items of discussion included stockpile adjustments and scrap sales. Discussion Ensued
- Met with Kevin Gouza with MDOT on ways to use our left over Winter funds due to the light weather.
- Screen Plant is up and running on Neebish Island crushing gravel.

Commissioner Ormsbee mentioned that MDOT is looking for people to report road conditions. Manager Laitinen mentioned that he has already signed up. He then asked if that had anything to do with MDOTS performance based system. Discussion Ensued

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS - None**

## **APPROVAL OF SUGAR ISLAND ROAD AGREEMENTS**

Two Road agreements with Sugar Island Township were presented to the Board. One for 1.92 miles of improvements to Westshore Road and the other for 0.75 miles of improvements to Townhall Road.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the Township Road Agreement with Sugar Island Township for improvements to Westshore Road.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the Township Road Agreement with Sugar Island Township for improvements to Townhall Road.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF 44 NORTH**

Manager Laitinen informed the Board that he would like to change our Agent of Record with BC/BS and Professional Benefits from Mazzali Agency to 44 North due to their specialization with Employee Benefits and the Healthcare field.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve 44 North as the new Agent of Record with BC/BS and Professional Benefits.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **AWARD OF USED TRUCK BID**

Manager Laitinen went over the one bid received for a used 2001 Peterbilt Dump Truck. Discussion ensued. Manager Laitinen recommends awarding the bid to Houghton County Road Commission.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the sale of the used 2001 Peterbilt Dump Truck to Houghton County Road Commission.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore informed the Board that the DNR has announced a Land sale and that there is property near the Kinross Salt Shed that we may be interested in looking at.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Chairman Timmer reported on the CRA Meeting he attended in Mt. Pleasant. He reminded the staff to stay safe!

Office Manager Decker expressed his displeasure over the direction of the proposed Legislation as it concerns Utility Companies and their ability to bill for movement of their infrastructure when needed for Road construction or improvements. He would like to see something that would exempt Road Commissions due to the potential high cost. He asked Chairman Timmer to discuss at the next CRA Board Meeting.

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

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Amy L. Price  
Board Secretary

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Chairman Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman of the Board