

**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 May 16, 2019.

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, Acting Foreman Bob Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Mills, Payroll/H.R. Clerk Livermore, and Clerk Ranta

**ABSENT:** Union President Mills, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, and Foreman McConkey

Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda which is discussion of a May 14, 2019, Sugar Island Township Resolution. It was labeled as item 10f.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the regular meeting minutes on May 16, 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$142,306.34 and Vouchers in the amount of \$298,913.61 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 regular meeting minutes on May 2, 2019, and the special budget meeting minutes of May 2, 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore commented that Mackinac Trail has smoothed itself out after the frost thawed out of the road.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Acting Foreman Bob Rye

- Concerns with the Miss Dig system. People fulfilling work orders for Miss Dig are not able to complete requests within the 72-hour time frame before road work begins. Discussion ensued.
- N. Raber Rd. project is about done. Need to add seed and mulch.
- Discussed mowing concerns where snowmobile signs are still up.
- Fighting with beavers!
- Working on grader repairs.

#### Office Manager Decker

- Attended finance conference last week.
- Attended the MERS meeting at the finance conference.
- Public Act 202 requires new forms. Will finish before the end of June.
- Shared information from a presentation on marijuana laws in the workplace.
- Attended a conference on the State Truck Line Maintenance Contract. It was a good review and there were a few new items taught.
- Installed a new server on Tuesday and currently working through some issues with that installation.
- Received our new county maps.

#### Engineer VanDorn

- Graveled the walking path for the Lakeshore Drive project; Payne and Dolan plan to pave before the holiday, weather permitting.
- Grade inspection final for the Curley Lewis project was submitted. Still waiting to hear if the project has been obligated. Continuing to call for status updates.
- Gaines Highway received some funding from the Small Urban Program. Will work on grade inspection final for this project and plan to submit this project next week.
- Attended a Bridge Asset Management Plan meeting with Manager Laitinen this past week. The seminar was very well done and the Road Commission now has a tentative Bridge Asset Management Plan.
- A conference for Pavement Asset Management Plan will be offered in the Fall.

#### Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The shop is very busy.
- Dealing with a few unexpected major repairs.
- Brush hog tractor under repairs.
- Baraga County is still interested in our truck and came to inspect it this week. Hope to hear from them shortly as if they would like to buy the truck.
- Working on construction related equipment.
- Continue to go through the snowplow vehicles for assessment and repairs. Have completed about 15 trucks thus far.
- Our intern Zac is back and doing a great job. Working independently, but with supervision.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Attended the Straits Area Council Meeting last week.
- Robert Sweeney from the Mackinac Bridge Authority will be retiring on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We wish him well.

- City Manager Oliver Turner will be leaving Sault Ste. Marie and relocating to Indiana for a position there. We wish him the best.
- Met with Soo Township Supervisor Larry Perron for various road projects.
- U.P. Road Builders will be holding their June 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It conflicts with our Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting time. A decision to move our meeting will be discussed later under new business.
- Enrolled in Ox Cart permit and will be effective as of June 1, 2019. They accept credit card payments. All permits except driveway culvert permits will be online.
- Statewide App for frost restriction was mentioned by Chairman Timmer.
- Contacted by an architect who is redesigning a traffic route to improve student safety at Pickford schools. The south end of Pleasant Street would be affected. Discussion ensued.
- Contacted by MDOT for a down payment for painting work.
- Attended a training on how to handle difficult people which was presented by Hector Hernandez at St. Ignace with Clerk Ranta. Thought it went well.
- Contacted by Denise from the CRA office for clarification of items she was going to discuss with a committee. Appreciated her call.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative Election Ballot Selection

After discussion, Linda Hoath was selected for the ballot.

- Fuel and Oil Bid Award

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the oil bid to Northern Energy as the low bidder and to accept all bids presented for future consideration.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the fuel bid to Autore Oil and Shute Oil as the low bidders and to accept all bids presented for future consideration.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- Bruce Township Road Agreement

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve and to support the Bruce Township Road Agreement.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- U.P. Road Builders Meeting Conflict Discussion

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to move the Thursday June 13, 2019, meeting to Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at Noon with distribution remaining on Thursday, June 13, 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Reaffirm Board Policies #10-13
  10. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy
  11. Heavy Policy
  12. Smoking Policy Deleted 4-6-17
  13. Policy on Township Contracted Work

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to reaffirm Board Policy #10, and let #12 lie dormant while holding off affirmation of Board policies #11 and #13 as they are under review.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- May 14, 2019 Sugar Island Township Resolution Discussion  
**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to support and put up safety signage on the Sugar Island Causeway Bridge with the cost of signs going to Sugar Island Township.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Office Manager Decker shared a recent procedural change in regards to the General Fund Transfer Check. Although the check still requires two signatures, both signatures can be obtained from the Board of County Road Commissioners, by-passing the need to obtain the County Treasurer's signature.
- Clerk Livermore gave a brief report from the Worker's Compensation meeting which was held at the Finance Meeting last week.
- Clerk Livermore also shared information regarding an electronic direct deposit system for payroll and the cost. Discussion ensued.
- Township Supervisor Jim Moore asked Manager Laitinen the status of Township Road Agreements.
- Township Supervisor Jim Moore also asked if could remove both of the Road Closed Sign and the barricade at the old hotel because a

new business will be going up and needs to drive through those roads.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

- Chairman Timmer discussed the UPCAP Board stance on gas tax. Discussion ensued.
- Chairman Timmer expressed concern in regards to a pothole near Bay Mills Hall.
- Commissioner Ormsbee complimented the crew for their work on the on-ramp of I-75 & M-28 project.
- Chairman Timmer encouraged everyone to stay safe and to watch for ticks!

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

---

Stephanie A Ranta  
Clerk for the Board

---

Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman