

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 October 23, 2014.

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

PRESENT: Commissioner Timmer and LaJoie, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Clerk McDowell, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Commissioner Ormsbee, Project Manager Deatruck, Engineer Askwith, Surveyor Wiggins and Foreman Pesola.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$118,046.69 and Vouchers in the amount of \$343,625.56 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the minutes from our Regular Meeting held on October 9, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jesse Knoll stated the 1½ Mile Road project turned out great.

Supervisor Kathy Gaylor addressed the Board regarding questions and concerns on seasonal roads. She stated that Jessica Savoie, who is also present today, would like to have improvements to Meadow Lane, which the township believed to be on the seasonal road map but is currently being plowed. Supervisor Gaylor indicated we are not complaining about this, but it brings up questions by other residents regarding snow plowing on other seasonal roads. She asked about meeting with Manager Laitinen to review and discuss some of these other seasonal roads.

Supervisor Gaylor also inquired about the guardrail which was installed along the Mackinac Trail detour route, which residents along this route are not happy about. It is their understanding that the guardrail is not required, but was put there to improve safety along the detour route.

Manager Laitinen affirmed that yes the guardrail was intended to be temporary, but we have negotiated with MDOT to have them leave the guardrail in place and in recognition we would do some of the shoulder repairs. Manager Laitinen stated by leaving them in place it provided added protection for the public.

Supervisor Gaylor stated there are homeowners in the area where the guardrail has been installed that have concerns about the way it looks. She inquired about having the end sections removed.

Manager Laitinen encouraged Supervisor Gaylor to have any homeowner who has questions or concerns to give him a call. He stated we can't just remove the end sections of the guardrail. With the type of end sections that were installed and being this is the impact part of it, it would require installing a totally different end section which would be costly and time consuming.

Manager Laitinen then addressed the issue about seasonal roads. He acknowledged that yes, years ago it did happen that when anyone moved in on a seasonal road the local garage started plowing it not only in Rudyard but all over the county. This was done a lot of time without knowledge of management or Board approval. He stated since 2008 those decisions are now being made by the Board who have established a policy for Seasonal Road maintenance. Further discussion ensued regarding status of Meadow Lane as seasonal or not and snowplowing of it. Manager Laitinen stated before Meadow Lane could be plowed beyond the current location it would be necessary to have an agreement for 50% cost sharing for improvements from an outside source.

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore voiced his concerns regarding work that was done along Gains Hwy, and also problem areas along Shunk Road between 7 and 9 Mile.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Putting up winter salt/sand
- Placing our winter snow markers
- Grading of gravel roads
- Working on drainage problems
- Equipment maintenance

Foreman McConkey

- Placing winter snow markers
- Winter salt/sand
- Grading gravel roads
- Equipment maintenance

Office Mgr. Decker

- Gave update on Emergency Management Grant
- Financials available for September
- Final payment other than the 10% retainer for the new salt barn was paid today.
- Billings sent to Great Lakes Commission for URS payments.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Working on equipment maintenance

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-NONE

MANAGERS REPORT

- Thanked Union President Hopper for volunteering his time on Saturday's for the Michigan My Drive event sponsored by State Farm.
- Spent all day yesterday preparing for depositions for DEQ litigations to be taken the 1st week of November. There was a change in the case with it being moved into the Michigan Court of Claims and out of Circuit Court. The case could be entering into mediation hearing instead of a court trial.
- Will return to 8 hour days beginning on Monday, October 27th.
- We have placed the ads for temporary winter help with applications to be returned by Friday, October 31st. We will need one individual for Goetzville and another for Eckerman.
- Attended the DEQ Joint Agency Transportation Meeting in Lansing last week. The Fish and Wildlife Dept. has extended the comment period for the northern long eared bat. It does appear that this species of long eared bats will be listed on an endangered listing. He reviewed the ramification for us once they are placed on this list.
- Meet last week with Forest Service to review the Teets Road and Bear Creek stream crossing. The Forest Service has now raised the money for this project and have asked us to enter into a contract with them to construct the structure. In the process of drafting agreement with them to begin construction in 2015.
- Payne & Dolan has completed Centerline Road but because of the weather they might have to hold off until the spring to finish the county paving. We have been assured that the bid prices will be honored.
- Attended meeting for Managers of Straits Area Council. We are in the process of drafting a proposal to ask the legislature to support a bill to exempt the Road Commission from participating in or having to pay dues to Miss Dig program.
- Will hold the Rural Task Force Meeting next Tuesday. We will be adding to the listing the county wide pavement marking project.

Manager Laitinen presented Sault Tribe/CCRC ERFO Reimbursement Agreement for approval. He indicated this agreement is for the storm damage on Sugar Island and the total allowable reimbursement is in the amount of \$811,607.00. The total damage was higher but this was damage done to only roads on the tribal road inventory.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the ERFO Reimbursement Agreement as presented and authorize Chairman Timmer and Manager Laitinen to sign the agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

Office Manager Decker opened discussion on purchase of new photo copier. He indicated the current copier is 10 years old and has over 872,000 copies on it. It is no longer accessible through our computers because of windows 7 updates and the new maintenance agreement will be 1,500 a year. Received quotes from Williams Office, Sault Printing and National Office. He indicated he is looking to get approval to make a purchase after review of all quotes and would be in an amount between 5,000.00 to \$6,500.00.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the purchase of a new photo copier not to exceed \$7,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore indicated he would be meeting with Wendy at Sault Tribe to discuss possible projects.

Union President Hopper invited all non union staff and Board members to the union's annual dinner to be held November 1st at the Bay Mills Casino with drinks at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00.

Office Manager Decker stated the new PA-152 limitation amounts along with the new BC/BS renewal rates will be reviewed at a preliminary meeting with Ryan from BC/BS, Kim from Mazzali along with Chris, Rob and himself on Thursday, October 30th at 11:00 a.m. He and Rob have also discussed approaching the union to see if we could agree to change our renewal date to the 1st of August instead of February 1st. A renewal date of February 1st would allow us more time to shop other carriers.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner LaJoie inquired about all the damaged delineators on I-75 and wondered if we would be taking care of them before winter.

Manager Laitinen stated we do work on them as time allows, but MDOT only budgets a certain amount to signing and there were a lot of larger signs on I-75 which need to be repaired.

Office Manager Decker stated we did also just receive a large order of repair parts for them.

Commissioner Timmer reported on CRAM General Policy meeting. Discussions were held on funding and issues in regards to Rural Task Force. One thing CRAM is working toward is trying to determine a cost per mile to maintain our gravel roads and what maintenance includes. He encouraged everyone to look at the general policy on the CRAM website.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman