

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 January 16, 2014.

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Timmer, LaJoie and Ormsbee, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Clerk McDowell, Assistant Engineer Deatrick, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Pesola, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Foreman Erickson

Commissioner LaJoie stated we need to add under new business discussion on changing the next regular meeting date.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie that the Payroll in the amount of \$154,238.81 and Vouchers in the amount of \$362,984.48 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve minutes from the Special Meeting held on December 30, 2103 and Regular Meeting held on January 2, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Pesola

- Crews busy with winter maintenance operations.
- Winging banks for State.
- Working with loader pushing back banks on county roads.

Foreman McConkey

- Crews busy with winter maintenance operations.
- Working on truck maintenance.
- Working on bridge south of Pickford.

Surveyor Wiggins

- Working on setting up new computer in the survey department.
- Reported on meeting with DEQ held this week.

DEQ representative indicated that we will have to apply for a couple stream crossing permits for 1½ Mile Road on Sugar Island.

Office Manager Decker

- Working on year end and have everything completed other than balancing out fixed assets.
- Working with Rob on Health Insurance. Have received the final illustrative rates from BC/BS for only the active membership. They also included another program which came about because of OBAMA CARE which allows for all your co-pays even doctors and drug co-pays to be added to your total out of pocket cost. This also helped bring the illustrative rates down slightly.
- Have held numerous conversations with Treasury to determine the changes made to PA-152 at the end of 2013. They did increase the hard cap amount for a two person contract to \$12,250, but we also must include in the hard cap amount all fees associated with OBAMA CARE, state taxes and insurance fees. After the approximately \$28,000 in fees are taken off the hard cap and if agreed upon by the union the cost for our current Base Plan per pay will be \$8.85 and for Option #1 will be \$47.81 per pay.

Chairman Timmer asked if these would be the final numbers.

Manager Laitinen stated we did ask for quotes for other options, but didn't have time to implement any of the plans prior to our renewal date of February 1st. He stated we do have BC/BS numbers down to an acceptable level, which will allow us to stay with the same options and coverage levels we currently have. This is still pending agreement with the union.

Manager Laitinen indicated he did meet with union members on Monday and presented them with these figures, but they had some additional questions which we are working on getting answers to. We are scheduled to meet later today with them.

Assistant Engineer Deatrick

- Working on 1½ Mile Road and will hold preliminary G.I. meeting today at 10:00 a.m.
- Performed inspections on pipes located on 1½ Mile Road last week and submitted a SHPO clearance letter.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Staying busy with equipment and garage maintenance.
- Gave update on truck/trailer out for repairs.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Gave report on meetings held with representatives in Lansing yesterday to discuss possible reimbursement through a Supplemental Appropriations Bill for storm damage on Sugar Island. Any reimbursement would be for repairs outside of the BIA reimbursements and could be in the area of around \$400,000.

Will be working on a written request along with supporting documentation to be submitted to Senator Walkers office.

- Reported on JATC Meeting he also attended while in Lansing. DEQ reported on year end numbers in which around 600 permits were issued for transportation projects. Through a memorandum of understanding between MDOT and MDEQ they are suppose to have a turnaround time of under 30 days for issuing permits. U.S. Fish and Wildlife made an announcement that they are looking at establishing a new endangered species. The new endangered species is the Northern Long Eared Bat. Discussions followed on how that could impact clearing and tree removal.
- Received MDEQ permit for the Little Rapids project and waiting for the CORP of Engineers permit. Nothing finalized with URS Contract as of yet.
- Held a workshop of our Rural Task Force on Tuesday of this week and review changes MDOT have implemented to our Federal Aid disbursements. In the past you could design a project have it approved onto the 5 year plan and could borrow against future years available funds but this option is no longer possible.

Manager Laitinen presented the following two Township Road Agreements with Dafter Township.

- Improvements to Forrest Road from 10 Mile Road southerly to 11 Mile Road in Dafter Township for a distance of 1.0 miles. Improvements to consist of clearing, sand subbase, aggregate base, drainage improvements and slope restoration. Total township share shall be \$65,498.00.
- Improvements to 12 Mile Road (Lockhart) from Kinross Road westerly to the Township boundary in Dafter Township for a distance of 1.0 Miles. Improvements to consist of clearing, sand subbase, aggregate base, drainage improvements and slope restoration. Total township share will be \$32,749.00. This would be a split project and have spoke with Kinross Township Supervisor Moore and he felt the township would be agreeable. Kinross Twp total would be slightly higher.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the two Township Road Agreements with Dafter Township for work on Forrest Road and 12 Mile Road as presented.

Commissioner Ormsbee questioned if we have the available matching dollars for these projects and also for the projects that were not completed from last year.

Manager Laitinen stated these figures were included in our 2014 budget for local work.

Commissioner Ormsbee asked if we would be able to complete all the projects this year and stated concerns on how it could affect the cost if we have to carry them over.

Manager Laitinen stated there was no work scheduled for the Eckerman, Rudyard and Brimley garages and these projects would help fill out the season even if we carry over some of the completion work.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS

- Change next regular meeting date.

After a brief discussion it was **MOVED** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to change our next regular meeting from January 30, 2014 to January 28, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee stated he has had calls from residents complaining that the plows are running when they don't need to be.

Commissioner LaJoie crews doing a great job taking care of our roads.

Commissioner Timmer also commended crews on a great job.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman