

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 June 18, 2015.

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Ormsbee, Surveyor Wiggins

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$128,538.81 and Vouchers in the amount of \$230,510.96 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 minutes from the Regular Meeting held on June 4, 2015 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Twp Supervisor Jim Moore commented that there are many people getting stopped and ticketed by the State Police on the M-129 detour. He then asked when work would begin on Thompson Road. Manager Laitinen indicated that he was waiting for some easement documents to be returned and that the project would start shortly after that. Supervisor Moore indicated that the Township is getting bids for the new Road connecting Gaines Hwy and Country Club Dr. Their intent is to ask the Road Commission to take on the Road when completed.

Bruce Twp Supervisor Carl Marsh presented a check to the Board for \$333,954.00. This is for work done to improve Shunk Road. He commented that since the Ridge Road improvement the Township has had three applications for new homes. Manager Laitinen commented that Shunk and Ridge Roads are great examples of what can be done with co-operative agreements and Township millage funds and thanked Supervisor Marsh and Bruce Twp for their participation.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Stock piling gravel on Sugar Island for Three Mile Rd
- Doing gravel road maintenance
- Brush Hog and AMZ work being done this week

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Business as usual
- New trucks are being built

Foreman Pesola

- Lost Lake is 99% cleared
- Meadow Lane work completed today
- Still fighting with some soft roads
- Gearing up for ramp/pipe work at M-80 and a bridge job on H-40
- Patching holes and general maintenance

Foreman McConkey

- General road maintenance
- Shoulder work completed on the State Rds
- Shoulder work on Neebish Island complete
- Moving to Drummond Island to start some clearing

Office Manager Decker

- Researching different Health Insurance options

Project Manager Dietrick

- 2014 paving projects are complete
- Looking into some pavement problems on the recently paved road on Neebish Island. Meeting with Payne and Dolan Friday. Discussion ensued
- Working on final quantities on the Federal Aid jobs from last year
- Received an approved extension of time for the Mackinac Trail project. New start date is approximately August 21st, when the I-75 project is complete

Engineer Krouth

- Little Rapids project bids have been submitted with hard copies due today. They will be reviewed next Wednesday
- On Saturday June 27th Congressman Benishek will be in town to receive a briefing on the Causeway project
- Spent considerable time with the Bridge inspector last week. One bridge was identified as needing immediate repair. It is located on H-40 over the Pine River. Discussion ensued

Union President Hopper

- Mentioned that the guardrail on 3 Mile east of Seymour has water building up on it

MANAGERS REPORT

- Four additional employees will receive grader training; it has been scheduled for August 10th. Good feedback was received from those who took the training earlier this month.
- Started negotiations with MDOT for the new contract. Discussion ensued
- Gail Pratt with the liability pool was here and received a tour of our facility and of Sugar Island project.
- Attended the Road Builders Conference. It had decent attendance and good sessions
- Have been communicating with Attorney Ed McNeely. Next Tuesday, June 22, the motions of summary disposition on many items will be submitted. Discussion ensued. The next step would be Court ordered mediation.
- Rudyard Foreman Ross has retired and with that a grievance from the Union has been filed regarding health care available after retirement and its cost to the retiree
- Due to the erosion problems on the H-40 Bridge at the Pine River a 20 ton weight restriction has been imposed. Commissioner Timmer asked if it would have to be re-inspected before lifting the weight restriction. Commission Gagnon asked how long the repairs would take. Manager Laitinen answered that yes it would be re-inspected when the repairs were done and that he was expecting it to take about 1 to 2 weeks
- Attended the Rudyard Township meeting and informed them of the necessary repairs to the H-40 Bridge and the restrictions that will be in effect. Also discussed were needed improvements to Prairie Rd. Discussion ensued
- Have been in contact with the U.S. Forest Service regarding the considerable damage they did to Sullivan Creek Rd. In lieu of repairs he is trying to acquire a gravel site or gravel rights from a pit in the area
- M-123 culvert bids are in. There were two bidders with Payne and Dolan being low bidder. Kevin Gouza our Maintenance Cordinator with MDOT has been working hard to secure TWA funds so that projects like M-123 can be done on State Roads. These TWA's are of great benefit to the Road Commission because we run them thru our State Maintenance contract and receive overhead on the dollars
- Our yearly road side mowing will begin next week starting at the southern end of I-75. Jesse Knoll will be mowing along county roads and has been given the go ahead to start
- Paving on Neebish Island has been completed

- The Causeway bids are in and we received three very competitive bids. Discussion ensued

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS - None

BOARD POLICY REVIEW- over the next several meetings all Board policies will be reviewed and reaffirmed.

#18 Hiring Policy: No changes necessary.

#19 Purchase of Service Time Policy: No changes necessary.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to reaffirm Board Policies 18 and 19 as they currently read.

MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Gagnon commented that he saw in the hiring policy that a Board member is to be involved in the interview portion of the hiring process and volunteered to take part when interviews start for the open office position.

Manager Laitinen read the pending contract with Whitefish Township for improvements to Lost Lake Road for a distance of .85 miles.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the contract with Whitefish Township for improvements to Lost Lake Road.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Union President Hopper asked who would be doing the inspections on the M-123 culvert job. Manager Laitinen indicated that it would be done by either Al Tester or a company like U.P. Architects. He also asked about the detour for the Black Creek job. Manager Laitinen commented that the bid letting for that is in August and that a detour route has not been determined.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Gagnon noted that coming up we will be running into a situation where we won't have a Board quorum and we should look into how to handle that.

Chairman Timmer congratulated Perry Ross on his recent retirement. He also noted that the U.P. Road Builders conference was well attended by those below the bridge and that he thought it was a successful conference. He then mentioned his concern about Tower Road at this point in the year and what could be done about it. Discussion ensued

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman
Timmer adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Board Secretary

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman