

**A REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan on November 30, 2017.

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, Foreman McConkey, Forman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Project Manager Jere and Union President Hopper.

**ABSENT:** Office Manager Decker, Engineer Krouth, Clerk Price and Surveyor Wiggins.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$155,765.79 and Vouchers in the amount of \$155,556.02 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 November 16, 2017 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore commented that:

1. A complaint regarding gravel along the side of Gaines Highway. There is an edge drop on the road which is a safety concern. Could more gravel be put down and made level? Manager Laitinen will look into it.
2. Thank you to the guys for working on grading the gravel roads.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Erickson

- Some winter slippery conditions. The weather has been variable.
- Gravel roads are in rough shape and have been working to grade them.
- Patching pot holes on the paved roads.
- Working on equipment in the garage.
- Most everyone is back from hunting season.

#### Foreman Goodman

- The box culvert replacement at Black Creek and M-123 is at a standstill. There is apparently litigation between MDOT and the contractor. Current condition will likely remain until spring. Manager Laitinen will call MDOT for an up-date. The road is currently wide enough for our truck to pass through this winter. Discussion ensued.
- Several complaints about gravel roads.

#### Foreman McConkey

- Hanging in there. Working on truck maintenance.
- Gravel roads have been rough, but looking half-way decent now.
- The shop is busy. Frank came and helped with the mulch truck job.
- Patching pot holes.

#### Project Manager Jere

- Working on projects for the up-coming 2018-2019 year.
- Had an early November meeting with DEQ Officer Mitch Koetje that went well. There are some concerns regarding mulch, but good effort is being made.
- Will be pro-active with safety side of things and plans to be in the garages more this winter to promote safety.
- Safety packet for new employees has been created and covers 1-2 hours of material.

#### Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Checked out new snow plows in Cheboygan with Foreman Erickson and decided that they were decent plows, but not for us because of the work that would need to go into them.
- Garage is set up for winter.
- Fixing trucks that are blowing hoses from grading.
- Working on rebuilding an engine on an older truck.

#### Union President Hopper

- Going back to a safety meeting we had in the spring, regarding different lights for highway night trucks. One of the guys bought some lights and installed them on his truck. They are on sale for \$100 at this time. Could the CCRC repay the cost? Chief Mechanic Marsh said the lights look decent and will look into it more.

## **MANAGERS REPORT**

- Thank you to all the Foreman and crew in regard to their work on soil erosion. Nice to have a positive response from the DEQ.
- Had a great vacation. Thank you.
- Received a letter from the Union concernering negotiations. We have to schedule a first negotiation meeting within the next 15 days of that. Union President Hopper has a negotiation team set up. Commissioner Ormsbee asked Manager Laitinen to contact Labor Attorney Michael Kluck. Discussion ensued regarding pension and potential legislative changes in the near future.
- Received a grant in the amount of \$499,000 from the FHWA for the Curley Lewis Highway. That will go in conjunction with \$449,000 STP funds. We will receive approximately one million dollars to work on 10.1 miles. Discussion ensued regarding the condition of bridges and culverts along this stretch of road.
- Big excavation project on seasonal Tremblay Road in Rudyard. A deep culvert has separated. Developing a plan to shore it up for the winter until it can be taken care of in spring. Will be a big project.
- Met with Peterbilt representative to start the process of exploring different options available with new trucks.
- 2018 budget has not been finalized yet, but will be soon.
- Will ask for truck bids and hope to have a P.O. ready by January 1, 2018.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Ormsbee expressed concern over an older white truck in Eckerman that appeared to have a CCRC logo on it. It was a private owned employee's truck that had a faded logo and not owned by the CCRC.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Ormsbee voiced concern regarding a paved parking lot at the intersection of 6 mile and Mackinac Trail. The parking lot ends where the road begins and the public is turning into the stop sign when the corner is cut. Need to determine a process to delineate the road. Discussion ensued.
- Discussion of permits, standard forms, potential rebates and fees associated with utility installation and legal issues.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Moore, Kinross Township Supervisor added that:

- A request to see if Cloverland Electric has applied for a permit in regard to underground work on the west side of I-75, perhaps north of Rudyard. Project Manager Jere replied, "Not yet."
- He drove on H-40 and noticed a company dropping a wire in the ground. Supervisor Moore questioned the installation process.

Union President Hopper noted that:

- M-221 in Brimley, there is some excavation through the sidewalk and should be fixed before winter. Cones and yellow caution tape mark the spot. Discussion ensued.
- All signage along M-123 was replaced this summer. State signage was only replaced. It was mentioned that the County/Township might want to invest in replacing remaining road name signage.
- Manager Laitinen recommended that MDOT in Newberry be contacted for signage issue.

Manager Laitinen noted:

- The office received a letter with no return address or signature stating their concern with plow driver's speed in the Monacle Lake area. The concern will be passed on to Foreman Goodman.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer asked everyone to stay safe and keep up the good safety record.

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Stephanie A. Ranta  
Deputy Board Clerk

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman of the Board