

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 July 13, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Price, and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Engineer Krouth and Project Manager Jere

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to move New Business item A to the top of the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Cloverland Electric - Dan Dasho

Cloverland representatives CEO Dan Dasho, Engineer Brian Lavey and Operations Director Jim Mackie were in attendance. Mr. Dasho thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet and discuss a disagreement between the two agencies. He stated that he wanted to explain to the Board what Cloverland's ideas and thoughts were regarding a project that took place on Drummond Island. Mr. Dasho went through the timeline of the project and indicated that they are very open to resolving the issue and moving forward with a positive working relationship.

Although Manager Laitinen stated that he regrets the tone of his e-mail to Mr. Dasho he still feels very strongly that the Road Commission position regarding the issue is correct and he stands by his statements, with apology only for the insulting tone. More discussion ensued. Mr. Dasho stated he felt the Road Commission hadn't proven their case and failed to provide documents during this disagreement. Manager Laitinen replied that it is not the Road Commissions job to do Cloverlands records research. Manager Laitinen stated that the invoice in the amount of \$56,784 from Cloverland is unwarranted and again recommended that the Board not approve it for payment.

All parties agreed that better communication going forward is needed.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$146,293.40 and Vouchers in the amount of \$823,987.68 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 June 29, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS Sugar Island Township Supervisor Roy thanked the staff for doing a great job. He asked if the Township could receive an e-mailed copy of the meeting minutes.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman McConkey

- Most had a nice break over the Holiday.
- Spring Bay Road Brushing and silt fence application.
- Mechanic Fegan doing general maintenance, staying busy.
- Brush Hog was moved to the West end.

Foreman Erickson

- Took delivery of the new mowing equipment, it was put to work that same day and is working great.
- Dragging gravel roads, the continuous rain is causing a lot of rutting and chuck holes.
- Patching sinkholes.
- Lockhart Road culvert replacement.
- Garage Maintenance.

Chairman Timmer asked how much ground is covered each day with the mower. Foreman Erickson answered that it depends on conditions but generally about 16 miles a day.

Foreman Goodman

- Continuous and heavy rains, the West end is wet!
- New Tractor is in use.
- Case Brush Hog is running on Tilson Rd.
- Dryberg Road project being put off due to the wet conditions.
- Dealing with washout's and beaver problems.

Surveyor Wiggins

- Staked Lockhart Road.
- Set clearing limits for Spring Bay Road.

Chairman Timmer interjected that it would be helpful to have the project sites marked on the Conference Room map.

Office Manager Decker

- Healthcare research and meeting with the Union on the Insurance renewal.
- Pension communications.
- Working with Retiree's and Empower on Deffered Comp withdrawal requests.
- Working on guardrail stock and supplies. Manager Decker indicated that we are in the process of checking our guardrail and replacing or repairing where needed.
- Office Mgr. Decker informed the Board that there will be an Active Shooter/Safety training here on the morning of August 25th.
- Office Manager Decker also told the Board that Jolene Christine with Empower will be continuing her garage visits the week of July 25th.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Took delivery of newly purchased mowing equipment. It was gone through and received general maintenance. It's out and operating.
- Shop is staying busy.

Union President Hopper

- Mentioned that having the new mowing equipment is great but takes personal away from the Brush Hog.
- Inquired about repairs to Ranger Rd. Manager Laitinen indicated that he has contacted the Township but they were not interested in a project right now. He also noted that this road is eligible for Federal Aid money so perhaps something will come of that.

Manager Laitinen

- Met with the new Union BA, he seems knowledgeable and we are looking forward to working with him.
- Had a great vacation.
- Weather has been causing projects delays. Bigger earthwork jobs had to wait.
- New mowing equipment is cutting in the Brimley and Rudyard areas.
- Paving projects not done in the fall of 2016 have been completed. The materials were tested and it was a top quality product.
- Met with officials from the Bay Mills Tribe and the BIA regarding Spirt Stone Trail enhancements and funding along Lakeshore Dr. The committee will meet again this fall.
- Continuing to gather excavator rental quotes for the 12 Mile Box Culvert project and coordinating with UP Pipe for use of their crane. Possible second week in August start.
- Mitch with the DEQ popped in on July 3 to do some inspections. Overall he was happy with the sites inspected.
- Working on a pavement marking bid package for this fall.

- Submitting the 9 Mile box culvert job project application for letting in the fall and spring 2018 construction.
- Continuing to work on Township Road Contracts.
- Manager Laitinen reported that he will be in Lansing next week for the Wetland Banking Board Committee meeting.
- The Office was contacted by Jay Gage, he is with Senator Stabenow's office and they are interested in information on the Paradise Garage site. A meeting will be set up to meet in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Discussion

Manager Laitinen informed the Board of three recent retirements' and two more pending this fall. He also mentioned the the Eckerman Garage has been carrying up to four temps during the winter and he would like to get away from that. He requested authorization to proceed with 6 new hires to replace those retiring and bring the Eckerman garage staff numbers more in line with past practice.

Commissioner Ormsbee indicated that at this time he can justify replacing the four positions opened up by retirements but thinks we should hold off on additional hiring right now.

Manager Laitinen asked if the Board would consider a fifth person for the Goetzville garage keeping in mind that the State has reinstated the night shift there.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to authorize Manager Laitinen to advertise to hire four new fulltime employees now, possibly more once the Union Contract is settled.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS None

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Office Manager Decker mentioned that the decision was made to go with all fiberglass snow stakes. He also mentioned that the electricians have been working on correcting the wiring in both the office and garage building and getting the office on the generator panel so it can operate in the event of a power outage.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer reminded the crew's to stay safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Amy L Price
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman