

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 April 20, 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, Office Mgr. Decker, Engineer Krouth, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Foreman Goodman, Project Manager Jere, Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$126,697.69 and Vouchers in the amount of \$265,612.64 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 April 6, 2017 and the Special Meeting minutes from March 3, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Review:

The Township Contracted Work policy was reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board with no changes. Complies with State law.

The Township Cost Sharing Policy was reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board with no changes.

The Investment Policy is required by law per ACT 51 and was reaffirmed by the Board with no changes.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve and reaffirm the three above Policies.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Approval of Soo Township Road Contract.

Manager Laitinen read the contract to the Board and discussed the scope of work to be done on White Road from Five Mile to Six Mile Road.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize the Soo Township Road Contract.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Signature approval of 2016 ACT 51 Report.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize Chairman Timmer and Office Manager Decker to sign the ACT 51 Report.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Kujawa from the North Country Trail Association were attendance to ask for direction on how to proceed with trail improvements along the Curly Lewis Hwy. Manager Laitinen said that they should seek out an Engineer for an estimate of costs and then to seek out funding. Discussion ensued.

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore asked if Forrest Lodge Road is on the list for improvements. Manager Laitinen answered yes it is. A meeting with Wendy Hoffman is pending.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Gravel Road maintenance, some are still very wet.
- Guardrail repair.
- Screen Plant is set up in the Kinross Pit.
- General garage and equipment maintenance.

Chairman Timmer asked about the amount of frost left in the tubes. Manager Laitinen answered that all the frost has been out for a week or so.

Foreman McConkey

- Grading gravel roads when conditions permit.
- Guardrail work on Libby/20 Mile Road.
- Mechanic shop has been very busy.

Office Manager Decker

- The Audit exit interview with Anderson Tackman will be on April 21st at 10:00 a.m.
- The first Empower fund transfer went fine. Several weeks ago we were informed that a surrender fee may be imposed by Security Benefits. The fees were charged but hit each individual account as opposed to a flat fee billed to the Road Commission. Steps are being taken to correct the situation.
- Working with Phil Wolf with Anderson Tackman on the 2016 audit.

Engineer Krouth

- Attended Paser training in Gaylord.
- Went to the Construction kick-off meeting in Newberry.
- Received the book for the Riverside Dr. project. It will be going out to bid soon.
- AECOM will be coming today to access and plan final work to the Sugar Island Bridge. Stakeholders Meeting will be held in May. There will be both private and public kick-off's this summer.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Garage has been busy.
- Unexpected repairs being done on Winter equipment.
- Accessories were ordered for the new Pick Up Trucks .
- Working with Manager Laitinen on the new Excavator specifications.

Chairman Timmer asked about the Excavator bids. Manager Laitinen stated that he and Chief Mechanic Marsh have been gathering information and will be going to bid soon.

Commissioner Ormsbee asked about the status of the Pick Up trucks that were ordered. Manager Laitinen indicated that we should be taking delivery very soon.

Union President Hopper

- Mentioned the fees to the employees invested with Security Benefits.

OLD BUSINESS None

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Switched to four (4) ten hour days. The office will remain open all week.

- Attended the ASCE Meeting in Gaylord, and gave the Bridge Project Presentation to those in attendance. Very interesting meeting.
- MDOT is interested in rerouting Smart Rd. near the I-75 off ramp. They are considering the open lot next to the Best Western Hotel as a possible new outlet, a meeting with all parties will be upcoming.
- Recently attended the Wetland Bank Board meeting and the JATC meetings in Lansing. The Wetland Bank Boards initial request for funds to cover administrative cost was denied. The State Attorney General's office has ruled that Administrative services were not allowed out of those funds. Discussion ensued. At the JATC meeting stream crossing permits were discussed. Changes may be coming.
- Asked to give the Bridge Presentation and to lead a discussion on the Wetland Banking program at the Road Builders Meeting in June.
- Will be meeting with the Bay Mills Indian Community to discuss the Lakeshore Dr. Project. The BIA has pledged an additional \$411,000 from their safety fund. This brings the BIA's total contribution for the project to \$811,000.
- Was notified that Jim Harmon is stepping down as Chairman of the MDOT Negotiating Committee. Looking Statewide for a replacement.
- Would like to hire four College students for traffic control and various road and guardrail cleanup projects throughout the County. MDOT has agreed to cover about half of the cost.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Office Manager Decker informed the Board that last year he had applied for an oil burning permit through the State of Michigan. After about three months we received a notice of conditions to follow. The State requires detailed monthly reporting on what came in, what went out, where it (the oil) came from and additional reporting on the equipment used to burn the oil. He then contacted the State to rescind our request and was told that we now MUST have an oil burning permit.

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore mentioned that he will be placing an order for missing road name signs. He also reminded the Board that Short Cut road will be getting paved as soon as Payne and Dolan is up and running.

Union President Hopper asked if the water problems along Lakeshore Dr. will be addressed with next year's project? Manager Laitinen said that, yes, of course proper drainage is always addressed.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee requested that the Building maintenance continue to be done. He also asked about removing absolute signage.

Commissioner Gagnon asked about the status of Load Limits. Manager Laitinen indicated that they will come off on Monday April 24th at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Timmer mentioned that he had attended the Commissioners Conference. It was a good Conference but was poorly attended. He reminded to the staff to stay safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Amy L Price
Clerk for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman