

**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 May 2, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Foreman Erickson, Acting Foreman Bob Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Mills, and Clerk Ranta

**ABSENT:** Foreman Goodman, and Foreman McConkey.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the agenda for May 2, 2019.

- Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda which is an approval to purchase a 2018 John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader. It was labeled as item 10d.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$147,568.86 and Vouchers in the amount of \$192,435.76 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 regular meeting minutes on April 18, 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Erickson

- Dealing with failed culverts and sink holes.
- I-75 Northbound ramp. Pipe completely collapsed. Hope to replace culvert this coming Monday.
- Cleaning up winter equipment.
- Working on the gravel pit.
- Frost gauge is clear in both Paradise and in the Sault.
- Working on cold patching.
- Pulling up snow markers. Were only able to save 30% - 40% compared to 80% last year. The difference in salvage rates had to do with the increased amount of this year's snowfall, how it

bent the fiberglass poles and the bent poles being damaged by plow trucks.

Acting Foreman Bob Rye

- Pulling up snow stakes. Small number of stakes were damaged. Not a large loss.
- Working on brush and visibility. Discussion ensued.

Office Manager Decker

- The audit is being approved today.
- ACT 51 is completed and posted online.
- Have not received all the information back yet regarding rates from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Engineer VanDorn

- Grade inspection final for the Curley Lewis project was submitted. The project has been split into two project numbers because of federal funding. Requesting another signature page to be signed. It now looks like a July letting for the project.
- Working on a Category F Grant for the Kinross Industrial Park Dr. project for 2020-2021 which is due tomorrow.
- Payne and Dolan would like to start on the Lakeshore Drive project soon. Looking into the start date.
- Gaines Highway received some funding from the Small Urban Program. Will work on grade inspection final for this project and plan to submit this project in a few weeks.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The shop has been super busy this past winter.
- Received one bid for the shop truck body.
- Systematically going through each plow truck that was used this winter and performing a maintenance check and fixing issues. The trucks are usually in for a couple days.
- Commissioner Ormsbee asked the status of the former Sugar Island Fire Truck and when it will be ready for use. Chief Mechanic Marsh said it is getting set up and should be in use hopefully by next week.

Union President Mills

- No Report

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Working on local paving package. Met with Drummond Island Township Supervisor regarding paving work on Drummond Island. Plan to meet with other Township Supervisors to discuss their paving needs.
- Various requests to pave roads were discussed.
- Held the annual MSHA and Safety meetings. Both went well.

- MDOT pavement marking bids are over 8%. Looking into using waterborne paint.
- Unfunded liability work group will meet next week at Crystal Mountain resort.
- Was contacted by Nick Cassel from the conservation district who would like a permit to take care of invasive species in the right-of-way.
- Attended a riveting webinar on Bridge Asset Management Planning with Engineer VanDorn. Will attend another in-person session on May 14, 2019 and come back with our own draft plan for Bridge Asset Management.
- Culvert issues at the Northbound I-75 ramp and on Whitefish Point Road. Hope to install new culverts next week.
- Participated with Luce County's re-monumentation contractor selection process.
- Straits Area Council Meeting will be held next Tuesday on May 7, 2019.
- Both interns from last year are returning and start this coming Monday.
- Office Manager Decker added that the new server is expected to arrive on Monday. The server will assist with memory capacity and speed with the new road-soft database.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bid Award for Mechanics Truck Body

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to grant final approval to award the Mechanics Truck Body Bid to Truck and Trailer Specialties for the amount of \$35,234.00.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- Curley Lewis Road Project Signature Page

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to sign the second Curley Lewis Road Project Signature Page.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- Reaffirm Board Policies #7-9
  7. Freedom of Information Act Policy
  8. Title VI Policy
  9. Drug Free Workplace Policy

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to reaffirm Board Policies #7-9.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- 2018 John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader Purchase

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to purchase the used 2018 John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader in the amount of \$78,247.00.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Foreman Erickson thanked the Board for acting quickly on the purchase of the 2018 John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader because it will be a great addition and asset in maintaining the roads.
- Foreman Erickson relayed a message from Foreman Goodman who was absent, but wished to express his thanks to the crew who did a great job this past winter. Dean is confident that winter is now over!
- Foreman Erickson also acknowledged and thanked Chief Mechanic Frank and all the mechanics for their hard work and help this past winter.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

- Commissioner Ormsbee expressed concern over cracking on newly paved Baker Side Road and on 15 Mile Road. Solutions were discussed.
- Commissioner Ormsbee also brought up concerns of signage that has been knocked down and the possibility of replacing wood backed directional signs.
- Chairman Timmer shared results of an outside consultant who did a cost analysis from CRA. The results showed that it takes approximately \$3.5 Billion to operate the road commissions in Michigan; however, the road commissions are only bringing in \$1.4 billion. There is a large gap.
- CRA is encouraging signs to be put up when constructions projects occur to help educate the public as to who is funding the projects and how much it costs.
- Chairman Timmer also shared that new technology will be available from CRA in the form of a mobile app for weight restrictions and a tool crib.
- The CRA is looking to increase their staff by one person.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 A.M.

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Stephanie A Ranta  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman