

**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 11, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Union President Mills, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Payroll/H.R. Clerk Livermore, and Clerk Ranta

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Gagnon and Foreman Goodman

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$142,486.27 and Vouchers in the amount of \$395,184.49 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

Chairman Timmer asked Office Manager Decker if there were any special items from vouchers that were paid this time. He responded that there was one higher priced item, but the rest were typical invoices.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes on June 27, 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore requested the status of paving in the Kincheloe area. Manager Laitinen said that the paving bids are currently advertised. We will know more details next week after the bid opening. Discussion ensued.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Erickson

- The crew has been working on Dunbar Road along the Charlotte river to widen and repair the road. It is going along very well.
- The AMZ crew has been on Mackinac Trail and will begin working on 12 Mile road next. Chairman Timmer requested that the AMZ crew work on 6 Mile Road as well.
- Starting to work on the seasonal roads because the roads are finally beginning to dry up.

Foreman McConkey

- Worked on the streets of Pickford during the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

- Continuing to work on 21 Mile Road. Crews from the Goetzville, Pickford and Drummond Island garages are all working together.
- Working on brush hogging along the roads.
- Continuing to deal with beaver issues.
- Our new mechanic, Ethan Castagne, is staying busy.

#### Office Manager Decker

- Working on June financials.
- In regards to the accounts payable portion of the check that was mentioned earlier, we found and purchased a used diesel pick-up for \$14,500.
- Working with Bobbie on health insurance forms that are due by August 1, 2019.
- All garages, except Eckerman now have internet connections. Rudyard will be the next garage where the new payroll system will be set up.

#### Union President Mills

- No comments at this time.

#### Payroll/H.R. Clerk Livermore

- Working with Brian on open enrollment health insurance forms that are due by August 1, 2019.
- Completed a test run with one paycheck for the new direct deposit system. Will perform an additional test with more accounts for the next payroll period. If all goes well, direct deposit will be fully operational by the end of August.

#### Engineer VanDorn

- Working on the federal BUILD grant which is due Monday. We have an estimated cost of over \$20 million.
- The asphalt paving on the Lakeshore Drive project was scheduled to be finished today. Next week guardrail will be installed and shoulder work will be done.
- Received comments on the Gaines Highway project. Will address those next week. Hoping to have a September 2019 build out date.
- The Curly Lewis Project letting is set for tomorrow.
- Our local paving package bid is due July 18<sup>th</sup>. Issued an addendum. Discussion ensued.

#### Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop is staying busy.
- Mower tractors are taking precedence at this time. We are down to two working units at this time.
- Continuing to work on truck repairs and on the shoulder machine.
- Researching used diesel pick-up trucks. Found one to purchase as was previously mentioned. Continuing to search for approximately five more.

- The truck that underwent repairs after hitting guardrail has been fixed and returned. There is a sensor that still needs to be fixed, but otherwise very happy with the repair work that was done.
- Also researching flat racks for pickups and various purchase options. Discussion ensued.

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

- The accounts receivable position will need to be filled as Stephanie has given her resignation notice. Her last day is Friday, August 2, 2019. More will be discussed under new business. He thanked her for her time at the Road Commission.
- Looked into a potential tractor purchase with Mechanic Marsh at Skinner's Garage. Because some repair work is needed on the tractor, it was decided to table this purchase at this time.
- Working with Tom on asphalt bids.
- Continuing to work with Tom on the federal BUILD grant application. Manager Laitinen has garnered great bi-partisan support for the project from county, state, and federal legislators. This is a very good application. Discussion ensued.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Pickford Township Road Agreement  
**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the Pickford Township Road Agreement for improvements to E. Church St., School St., Frances St., N. Manila Rd., N. Dewey Rd., E. Elmo St., E. John St., S. Hewer Rd., S. Weston Rd., and E. 23 Mile for a total of \$493,525 for said roads.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- Resolution 2019-09 in support to approve the submission of the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Application.  
**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve Resolution 2019-09.

#### **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

- Accounts Payable Position  
As mentioned earlier, Stephanie has resigned and we are actively looking to fill her position. A posting was placed through STANG and we received over 100 electronic applications. May interview as early as next week if all goes well. Will have a status update at the next meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Reaffirm Board Policies #11 & #13:  
This is tabled until the next meeting.

Manager Laitinen is requesting counsel and will continue to look into the matter.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer received a resident request to help repair W. 11 Mile road between Mackinac Trail and M-129, which is a seasonal road. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Ormsbee discussed an email he had received and shared the request with Foreman McConkey.

Union President Mills, who is also the garage foreman for Eckerman, shared the current status and work plan for Maple Block road and the surrounding roads that have been covered in water this past Spring.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer expressed his thanks to the crew for patching the cross culverts in the Brimley area.

Stay safe!

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 A.M.

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Stephanie A Ranta  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman