

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 August 23, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Clerk Price, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Foreman McConkey, Surveyor Wiggins, Project Manager Jere

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that Payroll in the amount of \$134,116.98 and Vouchers in the amount of \$842,928.38 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes held on August 9, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Lechner with Lechner Contracting was present to address the Board. Mr. Lechner asked about the status of the 9 Mile/Mackinac Trail salt barn and if it was available for purchase. Mr. Lechner then referred to a \$10,000.00 road bond that his company was required to pay in June of 1997. After completion of the project a refund of the bond was requested. After due consideration \$5,000.00 was refunded in the Spring of 1998. Mr. Lechner was present to request that the remainder be refunded. Manager Laitinen indicated that the Salt Barn is used by the Road Commission and is not for sale. In responding to Mr. Lechners request for a refund of the bond, Manager Laitinen indicated he would contact the last living Commissioner that was involved in the decision for addition information and will get back to Mr. Lechner.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Crews working on Townhall Rd on Sugar Island. The project is almost complete and turned out well.
- Mowing for the season is complete.
- AMZ crew will be out patching for a couple more weeks.
- Gravel Rd maintenance.

- Screen plant will be moving from the Strongs pit to the 15 Mile Pit.

Foreman Goodman

- Maintenance to Stienbeck Road in Rudyard.
- Culvert replacement on Tremblay Road went very well. This is a 60" diameter, 120 foot long culvert. The crew started digging on Monday morning and had water flowing by Monday night.
- The Prairie Rd lift project is progressing.
- Started clearing on East Lake Road for the box culvert project.

Foreman McConkey

- Crews continuing work on Rocky Point Road. Slope and shoulder work remain.
- The DEQ went through several job sites on Monday. Overall a good inspection. There were a couple small items that were noted and have already been addressed.

Office Manager Decker - No Report

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The shop has been busy.
- Several heat related breakdowns.

Union President Mills - No Report

Managers Report

- Received notice from the Michigan Department of Treasury that our application for waiver was denied. PA202 dictates funding levels for OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits), and Pensions which are to be funded at 40% and 60% respectfully. The waiver form was required by the Act to outline the steps taken or to be taken to meet the required funding levels. The funding requirements for the pension are the most concerning. The Municipal Employee Retirement System is a private company that holds, distributes, invests and administers pensions for government employees. MERS has successfully convinced the Michigan Legislators that our funding must be increased. It is the opinion of management and many others across that state that MERS requirements are both unrealistic and unobtainable with their current return on investments. Due to these poor returns, support seems to be growing for a State agency like the Attorney General or Dept. of Treasury to investigate MERS for their poor performance and hold them accountable for the public funds that they are entrusted with. Discussion Ensued.
- The large culvert change on Tremblay Road went well. While digging the trench for the culvert we were surprised to find a large cache of construction debris.

- A crane has been arranged for Sept 4th for use on the East Lake Road Box culvert project. This is only day the crane is available to us so we will be installing rain or shine.
- The guardrail work that was bid out in July will begin after the Labor Day Holiday.
- Elmers will be out to set the box culvert on 9 Mile after the Holiday weekend.
- Met with MDOT regarding our milkweed and mowing practices. The Monarch Butterfly has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a potential addition to the endangered species list. Two Chippewa County residents have requested that we don't mow the milkweed along the roadways. Although this seems like a simple issue it is not. We are required to maintain safe roadways which would include roadside mowing. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that when possible, without compromising public safety, that when mowing we leave as much milkweed as possible.
- Sugar Island Township has requested a bid for improvements to Village Road.
- Our first new truck will be delivered next week and then every week or so after. They should all be delivered before plowing season.
- Will be attending the CRASIF annual meeting on September 12th.
- Manager Laitinen noted the he and the three Area Foreman will be attending the Superintendents conference in early October.

NEW BUSINESS

CRASIF Board of Trustee Candidates

Manager Laitinen reviewed the candidates for the CRASIF Board of Trustees. Three candidates are listed and we are to cast three votes.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to cast our votes for the three candidates listed. Ken Hulka, Dorothy Maxwell and S. Mike Scott.

MOTION CARRIED

Modification of Grant or Agreement

An authorization is required to change the agreement with the Hiawatha National Forest Service for the installation of a culvert at Swieger Creek. The only change is the new completion date 9/30/2019.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to authorize Chairman Timmer to sign the Modification of Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Ormsbee mentioned that East 12 Mile is looking rough and could use some attention. He also mentioned the poor signage on the States M-28 project.

Chairman Timmer requested that a letter of thanks be sent to White Construction for their help in removing a downed tree. Their help saved time and expense and is much appreciated.

Chairman Timmer reminded all to stay safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 A.M.

Amy L. Price
Clerk

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman