

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, MI on October 15, 2020.

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 Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Foreman Rye, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore.

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Christensen, Union President Mills.

GUEST PRESENT: Barry Davis, Rudyard Township Supervisor.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$154,225.82 (\$146,887.26 regular payroll and \$7,338.56 retiree payout) and Vouchers in the amount of \$292,287.52 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 from October 1, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer VanDorn

- Local Paving -
 - Pickford grading will be finished today and paving tomorrow, depending on weather.
 - Crush and shape Nicolet/4 Mile next week.

- Shunk Road -
 - NEPA has been approved.
 - Working on funding obligation.

- Met with C&N Railroad regarding the 6 Mile underpass. They sent four people to discuss removing the underpass and make it an at grade crossing. C&N supports this if we can secure funding for it.

Office Manager Decker

- Financials through September have been completed. In the process of preparing a comparison of this year to last.
- Salt delivery will start next week in Eckerman and then Kinross.
- Remaining revenue to receive this year includes Forest Funds near the end of November and Snow Funds in early December.
- Blades are ordered, but lead time on delivery is delayed due to supply shortages caused by shut-down. Our order should be here by the end of November. We should have enough left over from last year on hand to get us through until then.
- Received the 180 day notice for the OPEB corrective action review.

Superintendent Erickson - reported by Manager Laitinen

- Due to all the rain, gravel roads are getting soft. We are grading when we can.
- Snow markers are being put out.
- Earthwork on Nicolet and 4 Mile is complete.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Finishing Drummond Island dirt work. Seed and mulch left.
- Running into several beaver issues.

Clerk Christensen -

- No Report.

Union President Mills

- All is good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Completed the 2020 Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) annual limited queries.
- With the Michigan Supreme Court ruling against Governor Whitmer's executive orders and the new orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services being issued, the liability pool continues to provide guidance. Communicating changes to staff as the information comes available and updating our safety measures as needed.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Truck 627 is operational.
- The blade on 711 has been replaced and it's ready.
- The last of the Kenworths are in Gaylord for warranty updates.
- One of the new front plows has been delivered from Truck & Trailer.

- Sanders are being prepped for installation.
- Trucks are being prepped for winter work.
- New trucks have been delivered to Truck & Trailer, waiting for parts. Waiting on boxes and hydraulic valves. Parts are anticipated to be approximately 2 ½ months behind original delivery.
- Due to the delay in the delivery of the new trucks, the old trucks that were to be replaced are being prepared for use again this winter.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Working on finalizing the Neebish Island real-estate transaction, nearing a deal. The purchase agreement has several conditions to it, but we are working with EUP Title in preparation for a closing.
- There is a 38 acre parcel of land on Neebish Island that we are working on a wetland preservation site. The materials available at the site will meet the DEQ/EGLE requirements of our settlement.
- The postings for operators in Brimley and Rudyard have been processed. One internal transfer from Eckerman to Rudyard. One current temp employee will be placed into the fulltime Brimley position.
- Interviews for four seasonal/temp employees will begin next week. Looking to fill 1 in Goetzville and 3 in Eckerman.
- Night operator postings are out and being filled for night operations to start November 1.
- As mentioned, salt is starting to be delivered at approximately \$76/ton (\$1,000 per truck load).
- The past few weeks the office has been receiving a number of gate complaints. A small number of residents have cut access to county roads through the use of unauthorized establishment of gates. We are dealing with issues on Drummond Island, and in Goetzville and Rudyard. We will continue to work with law enforcement to resolve the issues.
- Al Roden, with MCRCSIP, was here for two days to provide OSHA 10 training to the supervisory staff. The training went well.
- Met with MDOT and other county road commissions to discuss alternative planning, contingency planning, for this winter in anticipation to continued complications to operations due to COVID-19. While there is no formal, contractual agreement on specifics for ensuring service with neighboring counties, MDOT will set-up open ended TWAs for use to keep trunk lines open, providing payment for service, regardless of which county provides service in an emergency.
- Attended the General Policy meeting via Zoom. This format moves the meeting along quickly, staying with the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

A. A Special Meeting to discuss the 2021 Capital Outlay plan has been scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Notices will be done.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer would like to see the large map in the conference room used to highlight by year road work done by the Road Commission.

Chairman Timmer indicated the Federal Aid buyout is still under review and the prevailing wage is the sticking point.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman