

A SPECIAL 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 March 3, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Krouth, and Clerk Price.

ATTENDANCE: C. Marsh - Bruce Township Supervisor, T. Ball - Pickford Township, P. Lowes - Dafter Township, R Roy, - Sugar Island Township, S. Baker, R. Hudak, & M. McGuire - Detour Village, E. Benoit - EUPRP & DC, A. Gordon, & P. Paramski - EUPTA.

PURPOSE: To seek public input for possible STIP projects.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to open Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen gave an overview of the various funding sources available to the Road Commission for operating costs, maintenance and road improvement projects along with funding restrictions and match requirements. In addition to the Federal STP dollars and State D funds, there is the Small Urban Program covering the City of Sault Ste. Marie and some outlying areas and a portion of Kinross Township. Other funds include Category F funds, Safety Funds, Transportation Alternative Program and Transportation Economic Funds that may also apply to a road project and Manager Laitinen gave some examples of previous projects. There is also the possibility that with the new government initiatives more funding will become available for infrastructure projects.

Manager Laitinen explained this meeting's purpose and objectives. This public information input session is required for the development of the local transportation improvement plan (TIP). The local projects from Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties are then incorporated into one region TIP for submitting to MDOT. A meeting of the RTF#11 will be held to finalize the region's TIP, where the group will look at the entire region TIP and adjust as necessary. It is important to have future projects on the "illustrative" list in the event that additional funding does become available, projects are ready to move.

Manager Laitinen then referred those in attendance to the handout and reviewed the recommended changes and additions to Chippewa County TIP projects for 2017-2020 and illustrative list. These projects include:

- Move the Mackinac Trail project from 2020 to the illustrative list
- Adding to the illustrative list ranked as a priority project for 2017 - Culvert replacement on 9 Mile Road over a tributary of the Charlotte River.
- Ranger Road - from Lakeshore Drive to Plantation Road with priority ranking for 2020
- Shunk Road - from 5 Mile to 9 Mile with priority ranking for 2021
- Johnswood Road - various portions between M-134 to Big Shoal Beach Road
- Whitefish Point Road - various portions between M-123 to Whitefish Point
- 13 Mile Road - Riverside Drive to Scenic Drive

The floor was then opened for public comment.

C. Marsh asked if 15 mile now scheduled for 2020 had been scheduled for 2018 at one time? Manager Laitinen explained it may have been at one time, but projects get moved around as needed to best use the allocated funds. The list is looked at annually and there is a 20% local match required. Then it goes to the Rural Task Force #11 for priorities.

DeTour Village - would like to add E. North Caribou Lake Road from Spring Bay to Ontario Street (approximately 2 miles). N. Caribou Lake Road may be eligible for safety funds as it is a steep hill with a sharp corner at the bottom of the hill. Also, add Ontario Street from Democrat Road (E. North Caribou Lake Road) to Elizabeth Street. Manager Laitinen had done some background checking and because this road may qualify for various funding sources, suggested the Village have some preliminary engineering/engineering done by a consultant to figure out the scope of the needs or an initial design. He can meet with the Village to discuss the possibilities, but off the top of his head could see this as a project that would take up a lot of his limited staff time for engineering. With curbs and

what needs to be done the job could easily reach a half million and suggested that a consulting firm would be the best option to provide the variety of funding sources that may be available. Matt Wiitala and Vince Bevins from MDOT contact information will be forwarded to the Village so they can also start on inquiring what the potential funding sources may be. With this route connecting to M-134 there may be more opportunities.

EUPA - P. Paramski provided a list of transit projects to add to the illustrative list including Office Equipment, Maintenance Equipment (tools, etc. for the shop), Van Purchase and Bus Purchase. EUPA is unique in that it can use the funds for capital purchases. As the road projects are let out and costs are realized - there may be some cost savings resulting in a small amount of funds availability that couldn't fund a bigger road project, but may be enough to buy some office equipment or tires for example.

T. Ball asked about the guard rail/visibility issue at Gogomain and Clegg Road intersection. Manager Laitinen did check out that intersection and did feel there was enough visibility the one way to be able to pull out safely to check the hill, but there will be an advanced intersection warning sign placed. If the intersection were to be raised, the guard rail would also be raised so would not really help visibility in that sense. There is a sign scheduled to be place there.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept these presented projects to be incorporated into the Surface Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and give Manager Laitinen the authority to modify scope, budget and year for the RTF selection.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Timmer opened the floor for public comment. There were none.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to close Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept the presented project list to be incorporated into the Surface Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and authorize Manager and Staff to modify scope, budget and year for RTF selection process.

MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Board Secretary

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman