

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 December 10, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer (via ZOOM), Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon (via ZOOM), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Union President Mills, Chief Mechanic Marsh. Manager Laitinen noted their absence due to the MDHHS work remote order.

GUEST PRESENT: George Kinsella, Superior Township Trustee

Manager Laitinen requested the addition of a seasonal road agreement as item d.) under new business. Commissioner Ormsbee accepted the agenda with the additional item.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$159,225.07 and Vouchers in the amount of \$331,918.01 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 25, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Superior Township Trustee, George Kinsella, requested quotations for Townhall Road and Depot Street be put on the 2021 paving schedule. The township would consider participation in the cost-sharing program for this work.
- Trustee Kinsella inquired about issues regarding discontinued snowplow service to Crawford Street. Manager Laitinen informed Trustee Kinsella that the property owner responsible for the roadway obstruction had been requested numerous times to remove the pile of dirt obstructing the road way and drainage and that the request had gone unanswered. The owner was also informed that the obstruction would interfere with service provided to him and other residents on the road. Trustee Kinsella indicated he obstruction had been moved. Manager Laitinen indicated as of the week prior, the obstruction had been moved from the road to the ditch, creating a drainage issue in our right-of-way. Trustee Kinsella indicated the dirt had been moved and asked for it to be looked at again.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Starting to work on year end budgets. Still seeing a reduction in state funding. It looks like we will be approximately \$800K short in revenue from budget this year. Based on this trend, the 2021 budget proposal will reflect lower state funding projections.

Superintendent Erickson - presented by Manager Laitinen

- Bump grinder out working on primary roads.
- With the mild weather, crews have been burning brush in some of the pits.
- The Rudyard crew hauled 11-12 tons of scrap from the pit in Kinross.
- Some of the gravel roads are in rough shape. The weather is not cooperating and they will probably be like this until spring.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen -

- Submitted a MIOSHA grant for reimbursement of safety supplies related to COVID-19.
- All garages have been stocked with necessary supplies.

Union President Mills

- No report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Continuing to stay informed on COVID and prepare documentation and training for our foremen.

Chief Mechanic Marsh - presented by Manager Laitinen

- Shop is busy but staying ahead of things.
- The new ramp truck has been delivered and is undergoing fit out. Should be ready in the next couple of weeks.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended an MDOT bridge review meeting on-line with our bridge consultant from Ayers. There are some changes MDOT wants, including a scanned copy of plans. Some of the old bridges do not have plans, requiring our inspector to measure and sketch plan profiles with elevation. Discussion ensued.
- Met with the new Trout Lake Township Supervisor and looked at a couple of potential projects.

- Will meet with the new Supervisor at Whitefish Township in a week or two. The new supervisor wants to do a walk-through of the old garage property. We do not have a mandate or recommendation from EGLE on the clean-up yet. Discussion ensued.
- Met with the Sault Snowmobile Association. The DNR is not responsible for grooming trails in Bay Mills anymore. The association will be doing Bay Mills and Dump Road. The Road Commission will provide a permit to the association for grooming the snowmobile trail along the side of Dump Road.
- There is a grade inspection meeting coming at the Shipwreck Museum site. The plans are under review with MDOT.
- Interviewed by an individual from Pickford area who served in the CIA. He was researching background about another local CIA supporter, Lou Ojibway, who was the brother to one of our prior commissioners, Joe Ojibway. This individual was doing their research for a book he is writing.
- A new mechanic with great knowledge and experience has been hired. We welcome James Gervin to the workplace on January 4.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) A Public Hearing for the 2021 budget has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Due to the in-person restrictions, this meeting will be conducted virtually.
- B.) Due to the update to the COVID-19 preparedness plan placing responsibility for decision making on the Coordinator, Manager Laitinen has recommended our plan reflect a change in the appointment of the Coordinator to himself.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, appointing Manager Laitinen as the COVID-19 Coordinator.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) 9 Mile Culvert Bid:

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer award the 9 Mile Culvert Bid to Cadillac Culvert with a follow-up to Contech regarding the price difference.

MOTION CARRIED

- D.) Seasonal Road Agreement: Manager Laitinen received an email request from a resident on E. Sandridge Road, in Stalwart, for winter service on this seasonal road. On numerous occasions, the resident has been provided with instructions and the policy on how to make a formal request for service on a seasonal road. This road has seen an increase in the number of residents on it. The foreman will be asked to go look at the road and bring information back regarding what work it would take to begin plowing/maintaining the roadway.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer noted when CRA met, it was discussed that it looks like most new legislation is going to fail, as there are no agreements in sight.

Chairman Timmer wished everyone to Stay Safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman