

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on September 24, 2015.

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 Krouth, Project Manager Deatrick, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Surveyor Wiggins, Clerk Price, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Foreman McConkey

Chairman Timmer asked for any additions to the agenda. Manager Laitinen asked to add discussion of snowplowing S. Prentiss Bay Road to the agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to amend the agenda to add discussion of snowplowing S. Prentiss Bay Road and approve agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$118,447.58 and Vouchers in the amount of \$126,808.18 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 10, 2015 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Pesola

- Finished the M-123 shoulder asphalt replacement project
- Good start on Lost Lake Road
- General Maintenance

Foreman Erickson

- Seeding and mulching on 13 Mile Road done
- Gravel road maintenance
- Sugar Island crews working on Seppi Road

Surveyor Wiggins

- Staking on Lost Lake Road
- Working with Foreman McConkey on placement of new pipe on the Gogomain Rd.

Office Manager Decker

- Working with MDOT on their fiscal end of year.
- Reported that a new fiber network is in place and it is now possible to send a text to 911. With that network in place it may now be possible to wire up the outside garages with internet service to allow electronic timekeeping.
- Had a meeting with the local Charter Rep. The pricing for bringing their services to our stretch of Mackinac Trail is coming down. Charter is putting together a proposal that would bundle our phone and internet. The potential is there for a savings.
- Continuing to work with AP Clerk Ranta and adding duties as she becomes more familiar with our procedures.

Project Manager Deatruck

- Mackinac Trail project is done and went very well. The project came in very close to the engineers estimate, special thanks to Dave Mills for his daily inspections.
- Issuing several permits

Engineer Krouth

- Noted that the 911 texting is not working on Sugar Island due to its close proximity to the Canadian Rogers Network.
- Reported that we did not receive the Curly Lewis Highway grant.
- Work started on the Sugar Island Causeway project. Soil borings were completed and a Bathymetric Survey is being done today.
- Kick off meetings will be held in our Conference Room for the Sugar Island Project on Wednesday October 14th at 2:00 to go over logistics and at 3:30 for the project stakeholders. A third meeting will be held that evening at 6:00 at the Sugar Island Township Hall to introduce the public to the contractors.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- General equipment maintenance
- Remaining new trucks will be a couple more weeks
- New grader to be delivered next week

Union President Hopper

- New lighting at the Eckerman garage looks great

MANAGERS REPORT

- Attended the negotiating committee meetings as it relates to our State Maintenance Contract. Nineteen issue statements have been written. Two issues that are on top of the list are 1) audit adjustments to gravel piles and 2) scrap sales. Both of those items developed here. MDOT is pushing to move to a performance based system. Discussion ensued.
- Tracie Leix is the new head of MDOT'S Local Agencies Programs
- Received a bill from Cloverland Electric for \$55,000 to move the power poles on Drummond Island. Discussion ensued.
- There has been more discussion on a State Transportation funding package.
- The M-123 pipe change project by sub-contractor Payne & Dolan is complete. There was an issue at the site. The contractor left the gravel 8 inches lower than the road surface at one of the culvert locations. Several phone calls were received and a few cars's sustained damage. One tour bus went through the area at highway speed causing injury to two people. All claims will be settled by Payne & Dolan.
- There was a second issue on Sugar Island, with Payne & Dolan subcontractor Pearson Drilling. They were on site with drilling equipment to do soil borings. They had no signage or flaggers. When done they left their equipment on site without warning lights, barrels or signage, in the dark. The situation was resolved without issue.

Commissioner Ormsbee interjected that he had a very close call on M-129. He came upon an Amish buggy in the dark with no reflective markings at all, almost hitting it. He suggested that a meeting be set up with them touching on safety especially come winter.

- The Superintendents' Seminar is scheduled for next week at Kewadin Casino.
- The new Excavator with brush mulcher is scheduled for delivery next week.

- Brimley employee Keith Swendsen has retired after 26 years of service. Thank You to Keith for your years of hard work. You will be missed!

Commissioner Ormsbee suggested that a plaque with years of service be issued to retiring employees.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS - None

APPROVAL TO SIGN FORM 2067, ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE RELATED CONDITIONS

Office Manager Decker explained to the Board that this is a legal requirement of PA 506 and needs to be posted on our website.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commission Gagnon to authorize Chairman Timmer and Office Manager Decker to sign form 2067, Annual Certification of Employee Related Conditions

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF SNOWPLOWING S. PRENTISS BAY ROAD.

Manager Laitinen read to the Board a letter received by residents of S. Prentiss Bay Road. They are requesting that their road be plowed by the Road Commission. It is his opinion that the road is in poor shape, narrow and lacks turn around space. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commission Gagnon to deny request due to road conditions.

MOTION CARRIED

BLALOCK ROAD DISCUSSION

This issue was carried over from the September 10th meeting. Manager Laitinen stated that he did inspect the road. It is in good shape with adequate turnaround space. Foreman Erickson also inspected the road and agrees. After doing research Manager Laitinen determined that the authority to convey the roadway lies with the Soo Township Board. In order for the road to be in compliance with our policy it must be 66 feet in width, it is currently 60 feet wide. That would require us to acquire ROW from all landowners.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to send a letter to the residents of Blalock Road requesting the need for additional ROW. That upon receipt of ROW the road may be added onto the County Road System.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Brad Ormsbee commented that both the M-123 and Mackinac Trail projects look great.

Manager Laitinen added that he received the annual Winter Letter of Understanding from MDOT that outlines our night operations. Everything remained the same from last year. State nights will start November 1st. He also mentioned the need to hire a few temps and one full time person to replace Keith Swendsen in Brimley.

Chairman Timmer mentioned there is a lot happening at the State level for funding increases.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Board Secretary

Chairman Richard B. Timmer
Chairman of the Board