

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 April 2, 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 (by phone joined the meeting at the Public Comments - section 8), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Superintendent Erickson, Union President Mills, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen (by phone), Chief Mechanic Marsh (by phone).

ABSENT: For the purpose of social distancing - Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye.

GUEST PRESENT: None

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$162,035.52 and Vouchers in the amount of \$144,833.98 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 from March 19, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the emergency meeting minutes from March 23, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer VanDorn

- Received the Final Action Report from Mackinac Environmental for the Trout Lake Garage Site, as well as a status report update for the Strongs Garage Site. Will be reviewing.
- Been working the AECOM and MDOT to close out the Townline Road Project and am awaiting final signoff from MDOT. Should be received soon.

- Sent all project files for the Riverside Drive project to MDOT for final review.
- Have been working with MDOT regarding Payne & Dolan not meeting their Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) goals for the Lakeshore Drive Project. Payne & Dolan is aware of the MDOT investigation.

Superintendent Erickson

- Addressing water problems mostly caused by melting snow in ditches. We aren't seeing many frozen culverts this year.
- Crews are dragging and cold patching as needed.
- Frost gage in Eckerman shows the frost is out. The Sault is reading 42 on top and 55 on bottom.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Office Manager Decker

- Got the office set up to work remotely from home. Have been in the office only a few hours. We are rotating staff in the office to cover phones on a temporary schedule of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clerk Christensen

- No Report

Union President Mills

- On behalf of the employees, thank you for everything being done during this time. The crews appreciate all the measures takes to keep us safe and healthy.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- No Report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Working mostly from home. Looking at legal opinions on what our options are for funding relief during this "paid on call" period.
- MCRCSIP has made their attorneys directly available to us for questions regarding the applicability of aid and relief packages executed at state and federal levels as they relate to government agencies. We are very thankful for them stepping away from being

the middle man and allowing us to hear information first hand with a fast response time.

- Details to the CARES Act are coming out daily. It has provisions for small governments to recoup possibly up to 50% of payroll. We are looking into this as a means for us.
- Night shift operations will end on Friday night.
- We have a couple of TWA's from MDOT for culvert repair on M28/I75 entrance ramp and shoreline erosion repair on M123. We will have crews start on those soon.

NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 update:

- 1) We are still working on an on-call basis. We are waiting to see the governor's announcement this morning for any new or extended directives.
- 2) We are working through a permit issue with Waste Management and the Michigan State Police.

B. Revenue Discussion:

- 1) Looking at state-wide MDOT traffic counters, in general there appears to be a 45%-55% reduction in traffic. Most of what is out there is commercial traffic. The drop in gasoline sales will affect our June/July revenue when our paving bills will be scheduled to be due.
 - i. We have been looking into layoff options.
 - ii. We are looking at financing options for our committed capital outlay purchases to preserve our cash reserves.
 - iii. We were approved to purchase two loaders. For now we will pursue one and look into financing/leasing options.
 - iv. North Hulbert Road will get pushed out to later in the year, likely next year because it was going to be 100% county outlay for funding. The condition of the road will allow for some time delay.
- 2) Looking into a Small Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan. Lenders can approve up to \$500k at a rate of 2.5% with under a two (2) year payback.
- 3) Looking to see if, as a government agency, we qualify for a Small Business Administration(SBA) loan. There is a program available to small businesses that use the funds to maintain payroll to have all or a portion of the loan forgiven later.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the delay of the North Hulbert Road project.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to go to bid for lease and financing options for capital outlay purchases.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Truck 676 update: this is the truck involved in the February accident on M-123. The insurance adjuster originally estimated \$38,446 for repairs. The actual repair costs are growing and are currently over \$60k. Now the adjuster will classify the truck is totaled based on the cost to repair. We have the option to buy back the truck and put the insurance proceeds into the repairs.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to take the buy-back deal and proceed with the repairs.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Keep communicating with the crews. Make sure they aren't feeling too isolated. Keep them engaged and working where we can.

Commissioner Gagnon would like for us to find a better platform for teleconferencing.

Stay safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman