

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, Michigan on July 26, 2018.

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, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Clerk Ranta and Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Project Manager Jere, Surveyor Wiggins, Clerk Price, and Chief Mechanic Marsh

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the agenda for July 26, 2018

- Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda which is a US Forest Service agreement. It was label as item 10b.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$138,956.33 and Vouchers in the amount of \$285,241.45 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 held on July 12, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis asked about the road restrictions and weight limits placed on Johnson Road between Mackinac Trail and Thompson Road. Manager Laitinen explained that the road has sustained damage in a certain section and will not hold truck traffic. An alternative route from Thompson Road to Ploegstra Road to Mackinac Trail or Tilson to travel to Rudyard was provided for use when the truck is full. Trucks can return empty using Johnson Road.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- The crew has very busy the last few weeks.
- Installing a large culvert to replace a single lane bridge on 8 Mile off of M-129. Project turned out good. Open for traffic.
- Mowing and brush work is moving to Sugar Island today.

- AMZ crew has been working to patch various roads. They were temporarily shut down and used as flaggers on the 15 Mile Road shouldering project. Making good progress.

Foreman McConkey

- Taking advantage of the dry weather.
- Working on Rocky Point Road.
- Crushed gravel and binder working well on Rocky Point Road.
- New patch trailer in use on shoulder repair on Fairview and Pennington. Did a great job.
- Ford Tractor has some issues. Ken is working on it in the Pickford garage.

Foreman Goodman

- Roadside mowing will be done soon in Eckerman.
- Finished the Rudyard ditching project which worked out well.
- Taking advantage of the dry weather, the Eckerman crew has been working in the Maple Block area to repair old county roads.
- Changing culverts in Rudyard.
- Opened up a sand pit near H40 for the use in the Prairie Road project, the East Lake box culvert and the Swieger Creek box culvert project.

Office Manager Decker

- June financials have been completed.
- Working with Frank on repairs.
- Advertising new position.

Union President Mills - No Report

Managers Report

- Recently attended an insurance meeting downstate and wanted to remind all employees to be careful of your words and how they may affect others. Attendees at the meeting learned of a landmark case in which day to day conversation was misinterpreted and viewed as harassment. Remember this common rule, "If you wouldn't say it to your mother, don't say it here."
- Summer projects are going well.
- 15 Mile paving is coming along well. The ride quality came out very well. Need to work on the shoulders and if the weather holds, the project may be finished by August 1, 2018. Township Supervisor Carl Marsh presented the Chippewa County Road Commission a check for \$150,000 for Bruce Township's portion of the cost.
 - o Chairman Timmer requested that the record show how cooperative projects with townships can save money, be accomplished in a timely fashion and provide greater efficiency when not being restricted to MDOT's process.

- Kincheloe Drive was complete and turned out very nice. Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore added how please he and the residents at Kincheole Drive were with their road project. He questioned if the Chippewa County Road Commission had a covered frost gauge in the form of a blue box? It did not belong to the Road Commission.
- Trenching and wedging have been completed on Bakerside Road. Hope to pave later today if the weather holds.
- Will be meeting with Elmers today for a pre-construction meeting for the 9 mile box culvert.
- Staking has been completed on the Lakeshore Drive project. It was discovered that there was extensive utility fibers to relocate near the coffee shop in the curve of the road. It was decided to eliminate these culverts from this specific location. Discussion of alternatives is on-going.
- Culvert extensions will begin on Monday near the RV park at the resort on Lakeshore Drive. Should only take a few hours.
- New relationship with AECOM is working well.
- Old jobs on the overdue finals list for MDOT are being worked out and will be wrapped up.
- New backhoe was delivered for Drummond Island.
- Rental excavator came and will be used on the box culvert projects.
- UP Pipe contacted us regarding their delivery schedule. Due to the needs in Houghton County, they asked to postpone delivery of pipes for Swieger Creek until 2019. If guidelines for funding allows, the date will be pushed back to 2019.
- Underwater bridge inspection occurred yesterday and today on the Sugar Island Bridge and others. We have 10 structures that need to be inspected underwater every 5 years.
- Crushed gravel in the Trout Brook Pit, which is a Forest Service pit. Reached our target quantity of 18,357.29 cubic yards.
- Invitation for the three county foreman to join Manager Laitinen at the Superintendent's conference at Frankenmuth, Michigan from October 3-5, 2018.
- Decided to contract with Fleet Verizon Network which will provide GPS units and tracking for 100 county trucks. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to renew bond for DNR pit lease.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to table the resolution until next meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

The US Forest Service asked if the Chippewa County Road Commission could include an asphalt overlay bid for a 1/10 mile portion of Rexford Road North when we bid out our fall paving package. If price exceeds their limit, the work would be cancelled. Manager Laitinen is working on an agreement from the Chippewa County Road Commission to include this in our fall paving bid. US Forest Service is asking for Chairman Timmer's signature on this agreement.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to authorize Chairman Timmer to sign an agreement with the US Forest Service for paving of 0.10 miles of Rexford road when the agreement is finalized.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore asked the status of the names of the streets he requested. Status will be looked into.
- Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore also questioned who was responsible for Hugginin Road. It does not belong to the Chippewa County Road Commission.
- Bruce Township Supervisor Carl Marsh questioned when the shoulders of the gravel roads in his area would be mowed. Foreman Erickson responded that they would be mowed after mowing is completed on Sugar Island which should roughly take one week.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Chairman Timmer was looking forward to attending the County Road Association Strategic Planning meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan this Monday and Tuesday. He also will tour the Willow Run plant and ride in an autonomous vehicle. He reminded all to stay safe.

Chairman Ormsbee wished to extend an invitation to Cloverland's new Interim President and CEO Aaron Wallin to meet with the Chippewa County Road Commission to discuss our future working relationship.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 A.M.

Stephanie A Ranta
Deputy Clerk

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman