

**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 September 19, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman McConkey, Engineer VanDorn, Union President Mills, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen.

**ABSENT:** N/A

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$139,282.07 and Vouchers in the amount of \$157,184.21 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 on September 5, 2019 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Moore asked about the cost to pave one mile of Hookstra Road west of Tilson. He may have 4-5 other roads he would like to add to the list.

Jim Moore requested an update on the widening of Gaines Highway. This will be addressed in the engineer's update.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Engineer VanDorn

- Ranger Road - we have a grade inspection review tomorrow.
- Gaines Highway - funds have been appropriated this year - looking forward to a January letting.
- Curley Lewis Highway - met with Payne & Dolan. They are installing one cross culvert. Waiting on DEQ approval for a pipe liner adjustment. Wedging will start on the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with MDOT on local safety initiative. We have an opportunity for safety funding and engineering costs.

Foreman Erickson

- Finishing job on Sugar Island. We've seeded, mulched, and done some ditching. It looks nice.

- The crew is changing out some culvert pipes. Did Nicolet and had to close the road due to a cut phone line. Should be re-opened today.
- AMZ crew is working on Riverside Drive south toward 15 Mile Road.
- We are dragging the gravel roads and the brush hog is out working.

Foreman McConkey

- We are back working on E. Clay Road and doing the steep slope work.
- We been out doing maintenance on the side roads, filling pot holes.
- The fuel tank is now painted and ready for hazard decals.

Foreman Goodman

- The crew is moving to Tahqua Trail to start clearing.
- We are hauling gravel from Hulbert. MDOT wants some of our 23A gravel.
- We've been working on some general road maintenance to prepare for fall.

Office Manager Decker

- Cleaning up some accounts from summer.
- Received a reimbursement check for the truck claim from this past winter.
- We are having an issue with fencing on the slope of the road getting wrapped in our mower multiple times. Discussion ensued.

Union President Mills

- President Mills extended an invitation to the annual Union Dinner to the commissioners and office personnel. Dinner to be held at 6:00 at the Bay Mills Casino on October 19th.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- No Report

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Last week we were scheduled to pick up a truck chassis at a dealership in Detroit. We left the truck there as it did not meet the specifications agreed to.
- The flatbeds arrived and we are retro-fitting them to the trucks.
- We are working to get the trucks ready for winter.
- The shoulder machine is repaired and working.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- We had a conversation with Payne & Dolan and they will be doing some re-paving work on Bay Road at no cost to the Road Commission.

- Last week, Al Roden was here from CRASIF. He did a walk through and everything looks good. We have a couple of minor things to address. Our MOD Factor dropped again this year and we have the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest (.65) mod factor this year. Excellent job everyone.
- Attended the Pickford School career fair type open house. Provided junior and senior students an overview of what a road commission does and the different professions working within. We would like to be involved in more events like this with other schools.
- In Lansing, State budget talks are breaking down with a potential government shut down on October 1<sup>st</sup>. All MDOT meeting have been canceled in anticipation. Discussion ensued.
- There were 21 transportation related bills introduced despite the potential shutdown. Discussion ensued.
- The Rural Taskforce meeting took place here last week. Our total allocation is approximately \$860K.
- Met with Mike and learned about the chip sealing process and looked at some of our roads that would be good candidates to test this process with.
- Seasonal road requests are starting to come in as winter approaches. Discussion ensued.
- As Chief Mechanic Marsh reported, the MI Deal truck we thought we were going to purchase did not happen. There was a difference in understanding how the MI Deal spec. sheet works at the dealership.
- Thank you to the union for the dinner invitation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. An updated Corrective Action Plan for the unfunded OPEB was presented. **MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the Corrective Action Plan as presented.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Reaffirm Board Policies #11 & #13
  - #11 Heavy Hauling Policy - We have a written opinion from the Attorney General that limits the authority of county road commissions regarding hauling limits. **MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to delete Policy #11 and attach the written opinion for record.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

- #13 Policy on Township Contracted Work - It has been discovered that bills affecting this policy from 2015 failed. **MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to reaffirm policy #13, after reference to prevailing wage has been stricken, increase

the liability insurance threshold from \$1M to \$10M, and show an amended date of today.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

None at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None at this time.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Keep up the good work.

CRA Board has directed staff to look into identifying a candidate to elect to the MERS board.

The Education Committee will have a class on super-pave and surface treatment.

Tilson Road has some serious bumps forming.

Stay safe and congratulations!

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

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman