

**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 August 6, 2020, 2020.

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

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Union President Mills.

**ABSENT:** Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Christensen.

**GUEST PRESENT:** Barry Davis, Rudyard Township Supervisor.

**AGENDA** Manager Laitinen requested the CRASIF Ballot be added as item C under new business.

**MOTION** BY Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to amend agenda as requested.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$147,775.40 and Vouchers in the amount of \$292,287.14 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 23, 2020 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rudyard Township Supervisor, Barry Davis, inquired about the cost share agreed to on the Ridge Road Project, to improve the road grade and reclassify the road from seasonal to county road. It was agreed the township would pass the cost of the improvement on to the landowner.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Engineer VanDorn

- Local Paving - PK Contracting has been working on line striping this week and Drummond Island is complete.
- Six Mile Bridge - OHM has the NEPA forms submitted for review.
- Paradise Garage - EGLE was on site last week, investigating the limits of the suspected dump location. They did considerable sampling of the area using radar, drones, and probe rods.

Manager Laitinen commented on the considerable effort put into the exploration and noted it was impressive.

Office Manager Decker

- Paid off one lease today.
- The disbursement for the new trucks was completed yesterday.
- The next pickup is ready at O'Connors and will be delivered today.

Superintendent Erickson

- The first part of Nicolet is nearly finished. The crew has completed the topsoil/seed and mulch. Next week they will start to place the mailboxes and start the next section.
- Guardrail repair/replacement has started at the direction of MDOT.
- With the nice weather we have done some grading on the gravel roads.
- Worked on cleaning up trees on Sugar Island from the January ice storm.
- Norris put down some hot mix patching and it looks nice.

Foreman Goodman - reported by Superintendent Erickson

- Crew is finishing up Prairie Road with seed and mulch.

Foreman Rye

- Been working on Drummond Island. Finishing up there and then will be back in Pickford.

Clerk Christensen - reported by Clerk Livermore

- We were contacted by one of the crew working on Drummond Island to make us aware of the presence of Blastomycosis on Drummond Island. Worked with the Chippewa County Health Department and MIOSHA on education and PPE for the crew. Chairman Timmer requested a copy of the educational material be provided to him.
- Working on grants through MIOSHA and Treasury for reimbursement of PPE and payroll costs associated with COVID response. More information will be provided when available.

Union President Mills

- All is good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Preparing for the CRASIF audit next week, pulling the requested reports. This is a routine audit.
- Our second quarter MERS Statement of Net Position reports came out. In the first quarter we experienced a \$1.28M loss. In the second quarter we have a gain of nearly \$950K.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The exploratory effort by EGLE at the Paradise site was impressive.
- We will be requesting quotes for demolition of the buildings at the Paradise site and Trout Lake.
- The union posed a question regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and our sick-leave policy. After review of the act with legal counsel, it was decided that we would reinstate sick leave time taken for Coronavirus related absences, including time to care for children displaced due to school closures, as outlined in the act and track the 80 hours separate from the benefit provided by the Road Commission. This act expires at the end of the year and any time provided under the act that has not been exhausted will not carry over. While the 80 hours is mandated, there is no reimbursement for the employer.
- Abby is working on a grant application for reimbursement of wages paid while our staff was "on-call" under the CARES act. The original funding was not available to government units, but has since re-opened for application. At the onset of the "Stay Home" order, we had created a separate earnings code that will make differentiating this cost easy.
- CRA has requested the photo, taken by Scott Johnston after the ice storm, for use on the cover of the next issue of Cross Roads Magazine.
- The MDOT Rural Elected Officials meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2020. It will be available on-line at 9:00 a.m. only.
- We met with our attorney and opposing counsel this week. They wanted to conduct their own inspection of truck 627.
- We took possession of 5 new trucks (4 single axle and 1 tandem).
- The election results are in. 28 of the 30 new road millages passed and 146 renewals (100%) passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Guardrail Bid - These guardrails (Portage Avenue & 6 Mile Bridge) will be paid 100% by MDOT, but will pass through the Road Commission. Manager Laitinen recommended the bid be awarded to Action Traffic based on the low bid and our prior experience working with them.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to award Action Traffic the guardrail replacement project. The awarded bid amount is \$86,863.50 for 6 Mile Road and \$11,738.00 for Portage Avenue.

## **MOTION CARRIED**

B. Shipwreck Society FLAP Grant: The Shipwreck Society has been awarded \$316K in grant funds to redo their road and parking lot. Under this type of grant the Road Commission must administer and oversee the grant. Discussion ensued.

C. CRASIF Ballot - The ballot for four seats on the CRASIF board. The four nominees are all current incumbents: Jesse Campbell (Northern Region), Tom Doty (UP Region), Beth Hunt (Southern Region), Doug Robidoux (Northern Region). Manager Laitinen recommended votes be casted for the four individuals listed on the ballot.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to vote for the four current incumbents to the CRASIF Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**County Commissioners Comments**

Nothing at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nothing at this time.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Discussion ensued regarding the MDOT and MITA bid letting process and its affect on local road projects.

Commissioner Ormsbee wished everyone a "stay safe".

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard Timmer  
Chairman