

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 October 5, 2017.

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, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Price, and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Project Manager Jere, Surveyor Wiggins.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$120,589.33 and Vouchers in the amount of \$193,790.25 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 minutes from the Regular Meetings held on September 21, 2017.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Continuing ditching and culvert changes on Ridge Rd.
- Brush hog is being used on Sugar Island.
- Hauling savel to Sugar Island.
- Gravel Rd Maintenance.

Foreman Goodman

- N. Hulbert Rd. is complete and has been seeded and mulched.
- Bay Rd and Prairie Rd have been paved. Gravel work on the shoulders will take place next week.
- Culvert changes in Rudyard.
- Drainage grate covers repairs/replacements in Kincheloe. Discussion ensued.
- General Maintenance catch-up.

Foreman McConkey

- Hanna Rd and Libby Rd have been paved. Gravel work on the shoulders will take place next week.
- Continuing work on Hewer Rd., completion next week.

- Gravel Rd Maintenance and grading.
- Mechanic Shop has been busy.

Office Manager Decker

- Financials are out for August.
- Security system implementation.

Engineer Krouth

- The Little Rapids Project construction and signage is complete. A letter of support was written for AECOM for an Engineering award.
- The Kincheloe project has been moved up to the November letting.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop is doing well, keeping up!
- Sanders have been gone through and are ready for use.
- General Maintenance.

Union President Hopper

- Asked if North Hulbert road will be getting any guardrail?
- Reported that there was a washout at the bottom of the Prairie Rd. hill. Foreman Goodman mentioned that it had been repaired and he would watch for any continued problems.

Managers Report

- Manager Laitinen expressed condolences to Bubba Avery, Eric Baldino, Dan Jere and the Brow family on the passing of their loved ones.
- Attended the CRASIF Meeting in Boyne Falls to accept a Safety award for having the least amount of claims in our payroll class. This is a point of pride for our organization and a testament to the safety of our staff.
- Attended the MERS Annual Conference in Detroit. This was the first time he attended and he found it very worthwhile. One of the main topics was on the funding of future liabilities. This is an event that we should continue to attend in order to stay informed. Discussion ensued.
- Also attended the Northern/Southern Association meeting and gave a presentation on the Wetland Board activities. Interviews will be held next week for a Wetland Board Manager. The following week is a meeting of the whole Wetland Board where hiring and project decisions will be discussed and/or finalized.
- Received notice that MDOT State night coverage will begin the weekend of November 4th. The staff will return to a five day schedule starting October 30th.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Discussion

Manager Laitinen reminded the Board that approval had been given for five new fulltime employees with the possibility of a sixth. Manager Laitinen feels that with MDOT funding the night position in Goetzville the increase in funding and the need for staffing to run maintenance equipment in the summer that the sixth fulltime hire is a sound decision. Additional discussion was held regarding seasonal help next summer.

Interviews were held for the open fulltime and seasonal positions, hiring recommendations are as follows:

Allan Kowalski	Eckerman	Fulltime
Marc Nelson	Goetzville	Fulltime
Mike Babcock	Pickford	Fulltime
Ron Manshum	Eckerman	Fulltime
Justin Peterman	Eckerman	Fulltime
Brad Dumback	Soo	Fulltime
David Mills	Soo	Seasonal
Joshua Mills	Brimley	Seasonal
Mike Carrik	Eckerman	Seasonal

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve Manager Laitinen's hiring recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Engineer Krouth thanked the City for the use of their Rail Road Crossing stencil. New markings were needed on Five Mile Road off Baker Side Road.

Union President Hopper thanked the Board for the additional new hire in Goetzville.

Chairman Timmer attended a meeting of the Legislative Review Committee. The current trend is to move legislation through quickly. Discussion ensued.

Office Manager Decker informed the Board about a clause in Act 51 that deals with use of non-motorized funds. It states that we are to spend 1% a year on non-motorized projects but specifics are not clearly defined. Discussion ensued.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer thanked everyone for their time.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Amy L Price
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman