

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on March 12, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Timmer, Ormsbee and Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Clerk McDowell, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Engineer Krouth and Project Engineer Deatruck

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$151,208.64 and Vouchers in the amount of \$354,436.42 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2015 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Supervisor Jim Moore thanked Foreman Pesola and crews working in the housing area clearing the slush from the roads. He stated his concern for a large bump which has appeared on Ploegstra Road, inquired about seasonal weight restrictions, and when the work at the intersection at Kinross and Thompson Road will begin.

Manager Laitinen indicated that he would take a look at the condition of Ploegstra Road. He informed him that weight restrictions will go into effect at 8:00 a.m. Monday, March 16th and the plan is to complete the work at the intersection of Kinross and Thompson Road this season.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman McConkey

- Working on water problems
- Cleaning ditches
- Patching pot holes
- Steaming pipes

Foreman Erickson

- Working on a few water problems
- Winging banks
- Patching pot holes
- Equipment maintenance
- Steaming pipes

Foreman Pesola

- Steaming pipes
- Patching pot holes
- Working on water problems
- Equipment maintenance

Surveyor Wiggins

- Permit for 13 Mile Road completed and mailed
- Permit for Johnson Road has been completed and just waiting for Engineer Krouths signature.
- Act 51 maps have been printed and are ready for Board approval

Office Mgr. Decker

- 2014 Financial Audit has been completed and reviewed with no changes noted.
- Would like to schedule the audit exit conference for the 1st week in April.

2014 Financial Audit exit conference will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

- Would like to begin a review and reaffirmation of Board Policies beginning with the first three policies and continuing with two or three each meeting until completed. He indicated we will plan to begin this review at our next regular meeting.
- Presented February financials for review.
- Request for bids for financing on our new trucks and equipment have been sent out.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Busy in the shop
- Reported on two accidents involving our trucks

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

County Commissioner Rudy Johnson indicated there is considerable support from the MAC Board for Proposal 1. He indicated there will be a meeting at Strongs Township Hall on April 24th at 5:30 regarding and effort to consolidate ambulance services from Trout Lake, Strongs and Paradise. And his annual forest cleanup will be held the third weekend in May.

Manager Laitinen presented Act 51 Maps for approval and authorization for Chairman Timmer to sign.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve and authorize Chairman Timmer to sign the Act 51 Maps.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen presented and reviewed bids received on March 11, 2015 for three ¾ ton 4WD pickups. He indicated prior to taking bids he reviewed the pricing through MIDEAL program, which is the State Bid price. In the past we have not purchased through the MIDEAL program because the specifications did not meet our needs. The state specifications have changed considerably and now are very comparable to what we need.

Manager Laitinen did contact and discuss with all our local dealers to see if they would be able to be in the neighborhood of this state bid price. They all felt this shouldn't be a problem.

The three bids received from Soo Motors, Rodenroth Mortors and O'Connors were reviewed.

Manager Laitinen recommended the bid be awarded to O'Connors in the amount of \$26,224.00 per pickup as specified.

Discussion held on extended warranty option, life time max care option and bed liner.

Commissioner Ormsbee stated his personal opinion is that the extra \$2,815.00 per truck for the life time max care option would be pay for itself over the life of these vehicles. He also stated he would like to see the trucks have the spray in bed liners applied for the additional \$450.00 per truck.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to award the pickup truck bid to O'Connors Motors in the amount of \$29,489.00 per truck to included the lifetime warranty and the spray in bed liners.

Commissioner Ormsbee asked if we could specify that all the trucks are the same color.

Manager Laitinen indicated he had specified a dark color and would request the same color.

MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Ormsbee asked that before we pass the older pickups along he would like to see them installed with aluminum flat beds for longevity.

Manager Laitinen indicated we could take a look and see what the price would be to do this.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Laitinen indicated this will be Clerk McDowell's last official Meeting with her last day to be next Thursday. He stated we will be hosting a lunch for her here at the Sault garage today and invited all Board members to stop by. He then read letter of appreciation for her years of service and extending his congratulations for a great retirement.

- Gave update on two accidents which occurred over the past weeks, both involved individuals being transported to the hospital, but there were no major injuries.
- Met with Pickford Twp regarding downtown work and Proposal 1.
- Invited to speak at MTA Meeting on Thursday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Kinross Hall regarding Proposal 1.
- Both he and Representative Chatfield have been invited to speak on Proposal 1 at a meeting hosted by the League of Women Voters on Saturday, April 25th at LSSU.
- Will be contacting local media and other clubs asking to speak regarding Proposal 1.
- Geo tech drilling on the Sugar Island causeway has been completed and as soon as we receive the report back will be amending the RF{P for the causeway project and starting the bid process over.
- Held Rural Task Force Meeting this week to review and plan for a second round of funding which became available. There was an additional \$25,000.00 which Chippewa County was eligible for and agreed to allow E.U.P. Transportation Authority to use these funds to improve the Sugar Island Ferry Dock.
- Meeting to be held in Newberry tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. with Senator Casperson and Senator Colbeck to discuss Proposal 1 and any other topics of concern to area Road Commissions.
- Senator Schmidt will be holding office hours tomorrow at the Cup of the Day from 11:00 till 12:00.
- Received confirmation from Lee Chatfield's office that he would be stopping by the Road Commission around 12:30 on March 20th for a short discussion and walk through of our operations.
- Asked for authorization to advertise to fill soon to be vacancy in the office. He indicated we are in the process of rewriting job descriptions, but would like to get the advertisement into the paper.

Chairman Timmer indicated that this would be within the Managers authority. He indicated we can discuss the job duties for new staff further at our next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Union President Hopper inquired about having only one light mounted on top of our new trucks in the middle vs two on the outside indicating that people sometimes confuse our trucks for emergency personnel and try to pull over to the shoulder of the roadway.

Manager Laitinen stated the dual lights on top have become a standard feature all over the state.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioners Ormsbee, Timmer and Gagnon thanked Clerk McDowell for her years of service and wished her well in retirement.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman