

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 September 17, 2020.

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Foreman Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

GUEST PRESENT: None.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$147,290.86 and Vouchers in the amount of \$712,061.49 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 from September 3, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer VanDorn

- Shunk Road between 5 Mile and 9 Mile:
 - GI Review with MDOT is complete with a couple of small changes addressed.
 - A signature on the title sheet is needed.
 - The work to this road will be similar to what was done on Ranger Road this year.
- Local Roads
 - Completed the Paser Ratings
 - No Federal Aid rating with MDOT
 - Regional Planning has offered local road ratings
 - Completed nearly 40% of non-federal aid roads and will complete by next year for use with the Asset Management plan.
- Met with MDOT Office of Rail regarding the OJ Miller road crossing in Trout Lake.

- o Initial request by office of rail was for a full light and arms due to safety concerns.
- o Conversation ended with a compromise to use a lighted stop sign.
- o MDOT will pay for materials initially and maintenance for 8 months, then CCRC will own.
- o A meeting will be scheduled to discuss and look at the 6 Mile Underpass.

Office Manager Decker

- Continuing to work with AT&T and FirstNet on conversion.
- We have had some issues with the new fuel tank at the Sault Garage due to vapor lock. The check valve may need to be replaced.
- Attended (virtually) the CRASIF annual meetings. They reported their long-term equity return rate at 10.4%. It will be interesting to see where MERS return rate is reported.
- CRASIF presented Chippewa County with an award for the best MOD Rate statewide again this year. Thanks to all employees for maintaining a safe workplace.

Superintendent Erickson

- Nicolet work is wrapping up.
- Undercut on 4 Mile will start next week.
- After all the rain last week, the gravel roads are in rough shape.

Foreman Goodman

- Built a mile of Prairie Road.
- Working on Taqua Trail - ¼ mile done with ¼ mile to go.
- Finishing up shoulder work for MDOT.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen - reported by Clerk Livermore

- Received the MIOSHA and MCRCSIP visit reports. The reports are good with only a couple of things to fix.

Union President Mills

- Nothing at this time.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- We have had our first positive COVID-19 exposure experience. The administrative staff met this morning and identified where our strengths and weaknesses are. We have developed a plan and uniform message to use going forward when we need to convey a potential exposure risk to staff, ensuring the message is short, concise, and does not inadvertently divulge the identity of the

employee. Through testing and contact tracing, we were fortunate that the one positive case did not infect any other staff members.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Installation of the new GPS units is almost complete. There are seven of the big trucks remaining.
- Working on getting the trucks that were to be sold ready for one more winter. The equipment necessary for the new trucks has not arrived in Boyne Falls. It is anticipated that they will not be ready before the snow comes.
- The last of the new pick-ups are in. There is about one more day of work for them to be fully outfitted.
- Working to get the wing back on unit 715.
- Will start to put the sanders on the trucks next week.
- Starting to repair unit 627 next week to get it ready for winter.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Received a request, from residents on Pennington Road, to do some maintenance to the road. This road has been gated by one of the residents, and it has been communicated that no work will be considered until the gate is permanently removed. The County Commission has received correspondence regarding the inaction. A letter has been sent to all residents on this road instructing the removal of the gate.
- Received a request for Road Improvements to Betsy River Road. This is a seasonal road with standing water issues. There is an issue this year with the natural drainage and not much can be done to correct it.
- Finishing up some state maintenance work prior to the end of the fiscal year. Projections are nearly complete with a \$30K cushion, allowing for the pre-hauling of gravel, to finish up our current projects.
- Participated virtually this week in the MDOT Negotiating Committee meeting. Due to the rushed nature and lack of in person contact, the meetings do not seem to be as effective or engaging as they should be.
- Monday is the Perry Site ribbon cutting event near Lansing for the Wetland Board.
- We have the permit for the shoreline work at the Paradise Garage. Looking to get a ballpark cost figure to demo the building.
- An offer on the Neebish Island property has been made. Waiting for a response.
- Bridge design with OHM is coming along and will meet with them today.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. PA51 Annual Certification of Employee-related Conditions for Signature:

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to allow Chairman Timmer and Office Manager Decker to sign annual certification.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Letter to close Old Mission Bank account: The board voted to close the account in July. This letter is official notice to the bank to close the account.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to sign close account letter.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Shunk Road Title sheet:

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to sign the title sheet for the upcoming work on Shunk Road.

MOTION CARRIED

D. MCRCSIP by-law change - the proposed change is to allow county road departments, as associate members, to join the pool and granting them limited benefits.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept the changes to the by-laws.

MOTION CARRIED

E. MERS Adoption Agreement Addendum - MERS is offering possible changes to reporting service credit. The plan was reviewed with the board.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to sign the MERS addendum.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Union President Mills shared that there was discussion at the union meeting regarding the information released from the office on a positive case of COVID. Clerk Livermore requested Union President Mills remind the union that all information regarding COVID-19 as it relates to staff will be released on a need to know basis only. All information is considered confidential and will only be released in accordance with legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), through contact tracing, and coordinated with the local Health Department.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer inquired about the MERS 2020 Officer and Employee Delegate Certification Form. This year Mary Sholander from Marquette County Road Commission is on the ballot for the Full Term Officer Member. Chairman Timmer and Commissioner Ormsbee instructed Manager Laitinen to register as the Officer Delegate and cast the vote of the Chippewa County Road Commission for Mary.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman