

**A REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan on July 28, 2016.

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

**ABSENT:** Foreman Erickson, Surveyor Wiggins

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$122,131.64 and Vouchers in the amount of \$159,095.02 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 Meeting held on July 14, 2016.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Kinross Township Supervisor Moore reported that the Township has had brine applied on Wilson, Kinross, Ploegstra and Short Cut Roads. Manager Laitinen mentioned that CCRC will do Kinross Road again because of our truck traffic.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman McConkey

- Maintenance on gravel roads after rains.
- Working on a ditching project on South Caribou Lake Road in Detour.
- Ditching and new gravel on Seppi Road.
- Thanked Chief Mechanic Marsh for the help in Pickford.

Foreman Goodman

- Thanked Chief Mechanic Marsh and Staff for their hard work .
- Brush Hog running on Lakeshore Dr. Chairman Timmer asked if the large tress will be cut down. Manager Laitinen replied that their thought was to come back afterwards with the chainsaw for the larger trees.
- Will be working on marking dead trees for removal along State Roads per Kevin Gouza's request.
- North Hulbert Road is coming along well, looks really good.
- Maintenance on gravel roads after rains.

Office Manager Decker

- IT research.
- Meeting being held August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Soo Township Hall at 10:00 am for the Retiree's to be educated on the Insurance changes.
- Financials are done for June.

Engineer Krouth

- Pickford jobs starting to move along. Townline Rd is almost done.
- Dave Deatruck has returned to help with MDOT reporting and job procedures.
- L.R.R.P. Sugar Island, they are done with abutment work on the West end and will be working on the piers. Concrete pour will follow soon. Discussion Ensued.
- Was contacted by Great Lakes Commission and they would like to do a video featuring the progress of the Little Rapids project.
- After the recent heavy rains water runoff sites were checked and the DEQ soil erosion reports were completed.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- All is well, keeping up.
- Going through plows in preparation for winter.

Union President Hopper

- Asked if Manager Laitinen would contact the Forest Service about the clean up needed from the tree clearing being done along Plantation Road. Manager Laitinen said he will contact them.

## MANAGERS REPORT

- Manager Laitinen reported that he has been going over different Employee review forms. He mentioned that a policy should be developed for employee reviews.
- Caldwell Road is complete. This was a big investment for Payne & Dolan.
- Pursuing some tree clearing work with MDOT. We will sub-contract out most of the cutting.
- Will be installing culvert pipes along M-123 at three locations.
- Working on paving package.
- Had a visit from the FEMA representative to audit the work done on Sugar Island from the storm damage in 2014. All indication is that it went well and that the damage will be 100% covered.
- Began ordering materials for the box culvert project starting in August.
- Attended a meeting in Roscommon relating to issues between the Timber Industry and Road Commissions. Trying to come to agreement without going to legislation. The Timber industry would like to proceed with operations without having to file for driveway permits. This would create a control and liability issue. Discussion ensued.
- Received calls from Trout Lake Township Residents concerned about the truck traffic on Wilwin Road due to the clear cut operations at the Wilwin Lodge Property by Graymont. The road was checked by Foreman Goodman and although it is experiencing heavy traffic the road is holding up fine. Graymont has established a community development fund for infrastructure improvements and repairs. We may be the first to apply for those funds.
- Attended the JATC meeting in Lansing. They are proposing one rule change. We would not be responsible for work in the right of way performed by others. Discussion ensued.
- Agreed to final language with the DEQ in regards to settlement of litigation.
- Arranged for help in the Engineering office. As mentioned Dave Deatrack is here helping out and Pete Paramski will be coming onboard to fill in during Engineer Krouth's medical leave.
- Road Millage renewal received \$1000.00 in donations. The funds will be used to advertise for the Millage renewal. The vote will be held on Tuesday August 2, 2016.
- Straits Council Meeting is next Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Mackinac City.

- Manager Laitinen reported that apparently we can't have anything nice. He hit a deer on his way into work this morning with the new Pick-Up truck, moderate damage.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS - NONE**

**CRASIF BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION**

Chairman Timmer went over the four résumé's submitted. He informed the Board that they are to cast three votes.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to cast their vote for the three incumbents.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AWARD OF USED EQUIPMENT BID**

Manager Laitinen went over the bids received on the used equipment.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the used equipment to the highest bidder and ties will be rebid.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioner Ormsbee asked if the engine that was not bid on would be scrapped. Manager Laitinen replied yes.

Manager Laitinen explained that with the proceeds of the equipment sale he and Chief Mechanic Marsh wanted to purchase a new rotary mower. The expected cost is between 13 and 15 thousand.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to go to get pricing on a new rotary mower. If it comes in under \$15,000 we can proceed. Over \$15,000 we must go to sealed bid.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Timmer commented that we should have a look at investing in the equipment it would take to do the roadside mowing ourselves. Commissioner Ormsbee stated that he felt that we would get a better job done using our own forces with the benefit of the new asset. Manager Laitinen agreed but added that current contracts should be honored. The Board agreed. Commissioner Ormsbee stated that we should act by fall for the best pricing. Chief Mechanic Marsh said that delivery of those items could take up to four months. Manager Laitinen mentioned that this is the last summer for the State mowing contract.

This is an item we could do and keep several workers busy all summer cutting just on the State Roads. Discussion Ensued.

**APPROVAL OF L.R.R.P. AMMENDMENT & AUTHORIZATION FOR MANAGER LAITINEN TO SIGN.**

Manager Laitinen explained to the Board that the amendment is for a time extension.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the L.R.R.P. amendment and authorize Manager Laitinen to sign.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Kinross Township Supervisor Moore asked Manager Laitinen if the two utility poles on Thompson Road would be removed before winter. Manager Laitinen responded that he would check.

Union President Hopper mentioned an error in the July 14<sup>th</sup> minutes. The price of a mile of brine was reported as \$7.50. The correct number is \$750.00 a mile. The minutes have been corrected. He then asked Manager Laitinen if he had heard about the Supreme Court ruling regarding pot holes in a parking lane. He said he had and would look into it further. He then stated that we have a need for more brush hogs as well as mowers.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer mentioned that CRA's strategic planning committee is looking at the concept that we as Road Commissions are becoming "Managers of the Right of Way". There is a big push to step up our councils and educate others about our involvement.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

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Amy L. Price  
Board Secretary

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman of the Board