

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 26, 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 Price, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Engineer Krouth and Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman McConkey

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$149,102.09 and Vouchers in the amount of \$103,792.71 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 March 12, 2015 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Dennis Savoie inquired about the development of Meadow Lane in Rudyard Township. Manager Laitinen indicated that he has been in contact with Rudyard Township Supervisor Gaylor and is putting together an estimate for improvements. She indicated they are ready to move forward and should have approval at their next Township meeting. When approved it's just a matter of waiting for the frost to come out of the roadway and for it to dry up. Mr. Savoie then inquired about the 50% cost share policy and the reason for it. It was explained that Act 51 dictates that all local road improvements require 50% minimum outside funding.

Kinross Supervisor Jim Moore commended Foreman Pesola and crews working in the housing area clearing the slush from the roads.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Working on ditch cleaning
- Steaming culverts
- Prepping equipment for Summer season
- Should get back to 13 Mile next week

Foreman Pesola

- Working on ditch cleaning
- Working on water problems
- Great effort by steaming crew

Office Mgr. Decker

- New lighting has been installed in the Office and in the Pickford garage. The rebate for Pickford was \$2200 or about 20% of the project cost. The Eckerman garage will be the next to be changed out while the rebates are still available.
- Audit is complete and the audit exit conference is scheduled for Wednesday April 1, 2015 at 10:00 am

Project Manager Deatrick

- Busy with Permit writing while weight restrictions are in place
- Working on final reports for last season's MDOT projects.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Busy in the shop
- Going through the summer equipment and getting it ready for use

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS - None

Manager Laitinen informed the Board of the bids received for financing of 6 new Tandem Trucks. His recommendation is to award the bid to Central Savings Bank at a rate of 1.89% for 60 months.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the financing of 6 new Tandem Trucks to Central Savings Bank.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding the historically low interest rate and if it would be a good time to invest in some other new equipment. Commissioner Timmer asked how long those rates will be available.

Board Policy Review - over the next several meetings all Board policies will be reviewed and reaffirmed.

#1 Purchasing Policy: The current policy was reviewed and reaffirmed that it is working as attended. No changes to policy were made.

#2 Policy for Commuting use of Road Commission Vehicles: We are in compliance with IRS rules. No changes necessary.

#3 Seasonal Road Policy: Discussion on current policy, it was agreed that the policy in place is working and no changes are needed.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to reaffirm Board Policies 1, 2 and 3 as they currently read.

MOTION CARRIED

Presented to the Board was Resolution #2015-02 in support of MDOT contract #15-5073, Improvements to Mackinac Trail. Manager Laitinen read the Resolution.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to support MDOT Resolution #15-5073, Improvements to Mackinac Trail.

MOTION CARRIED

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Timmer Yes
Commissioner Ormsbee Yes
Commissioner Gagnon Yes

LEGISLATIVE TRIBUTE

State Representative Lee Chatfield presented to Manager Laitinen a certificate of Special Tribute from the Michigan House of Representatives declaring the first day of Spring March 20, 2015 as Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day. It read in part...

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, Therefore, This document is signed and dedicated to salute the snowplow drivers for their loyal service in protecting the safety of the people of this great state. May snowplow drivers and their families always enjoy the safety and security that they tirelessly work to provide for others.

Manager Laitinen stated that copies of this document would be provided to each garage.

MANAGERS REPORT

- Reported on visit from Representative Lee Chatfield. He was given a full tour of our facility and equipment. Discussion was held regarding Proposal 1 and its impact on Road Commissions. Meeting went very well.
- State night patrol will be ending Friday March 27th, 2015. It's also the last weekend for weekend watch. If needed, we will call in people in the evenings and weekends.
- Attended meeting in Newberry with Senators Casperson, Schmidt and Colbeck. Several Counties were in attendance. Discussion was held

regarding the transportation budget and possible changes to ACT 51. Very good discussion.

- Discussions began with BC/BS for the upcoming August renewal.
- Presentation that was made at the CRAM Conference should be distributed soon.
- E-mail notice was sent regarding a group called Stand Up. They are the non-profit group funding Marquette County's fight against the EPA. Discussion ensued. Manager Laitinen asked the Board how they felt about supporting Stand Up

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to support Stand Up.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution of support for the group Stand Up and Marquette County Road Commission to be prepared and presented at an upcoming meeting.

- Graymont has received approval to proceed with Limestone mining from the DNR. They are now in the process of obtaining DEQ and EPA permits. Call has been made to Graymont to set up a meeting to discuss with them any necessary improvements that may be needed.
- Causeway drilling complete on SI. Extra funds have been approved and request for proposal has been amended and is ready to go out. Will be using the same shortlist of bidders and selection should be done in June.
- Doing a presentation tonight at the MTA meeting in Kinross on Proposal 1 and Monday morning at 8:00 am on the radio.
- More work coming this summer on I-75, two culverts being replaced. We may have to delay work on Mackinac Trail until I-75 is done.
- Safety Meeting has been set for April 14th, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Foreman Erickson wanted to thank the Mechanics for all their help not only maintaining the equipment but filling in and plowing whenever asked.
- Kinross Township Supervisor Moore asked when the balance of the no parking signs they purchased would be put up. Request will be forwarded to Sign Foreman Young.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee asked if the "Deer Crossing" sign had been put up on Shunk Road yet. Foreman Erickson answered no that it had not and will get with the sign foreman.

Commissioner Ormsbee asked about progress with the DEQ suit. Manager Laitinen stated that at the last hearing the matter had been referred to court ordered mediation. No further discussions with MDEQ.

Commissioner Ormsbee mentioned again that we should look into additional equipment purchases while the interest rate is so low.

He then mentioned the lack of serious water issues and thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Gagnon mentioned that he saw all the ditching being done and mentioned how well the roads have been maintained.

Commissioner Timmer thanked the staff for another successful winter.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman