

**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 August 20, 2020.

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

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Ormsbee, Foreman Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Christensen.

**GUEST PRESENT:** Barry Davis, Rudyard Township Supervisor.

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$148,208.70 and Vouchers in the amount of \$1,045,198.44 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit. Manager Laitinen expressed gratitude and appreciation to the partnering townships who provided revenue, allowing prompt and full payments to Payne and Dolan.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 6, 2020 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rudyard Township Supervisor, Barry Davis, personally thanked Engineer VanDorn for attending the township meeting to discuss road issues and answer questions.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Engineer VanDorn

- Local Paving - Kinross roads are complete. The only remaining paving projects, currently under construction are Nicolet, Harold Street, and Frances Street.
- Gaines Highway - The pipe liner installation is complete.
- Whitefish Point - Met with Sean Ley at the Shipwreck Society and Jeff Muddrock at Sidock to coordinate plans with MDOT.
- Six Mile Bridge - Preliminary plans complete and should be received soon. Next step is to request funding from BIA after review.

- He will be working with townships to develop road estimates for next year.

Office Manager Decker

- Working on more COVID-19 initiatives.
- July Financials are almost ready.
- Anticipate approximately \$400K from the State of Michigan as an audit adjustment from the 2019 State Maintenance expenditures, mainly the result of OPEB payments.

Superintendent Erickson

- The culverts on the west side of Nicolet Road have been changed out.
- Crews are working on guardrails, brush-hogging, and removing beavers from I-75.

Foreman Goodman

- Prairie Road slope restoration turned out nice.
- Replaced a few pipes in Brimley.
- We will be moving into Tahqua Trail next.
- There was a significant amount of pavement damage by the crews contracted to install the new cable for Hiawatha Telephone Company. We will be repairing those areas and track labor and materials so CCRC can submit and itemized bill for repairs. We expected some damage, but there are areas where the damage was caused by carelessness.

Foreman Rye

- No Report

Clerk Christensen - reported by Clerk Livermore

- Submitted two grants by their deadlines. Both grants had narrow windows of time to gather information.
  - \$10K through MIOSHA for reimbursement of safety supplies purchased under the COVID executive orders to include hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, disinfectants, etc.
  - \$1.7M submitted to the state for reimbursement of wages and benefits during the initial executive order to Stay Home and Stay Safe. As "essential" personnel, this was the time recorded while our staff was "ON CALL."

Union President Mills

- All is good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Worked with Clerk Christensen to create and deliver updated training materials, logs, and records for our COVID 19 Preparedness and Response Plan. Most of this was reiteration and enforcement of the training and information provided in March.

Provided training to several garages (Sault, Eckerman, Brimley, Sugar Island, and Rudyard) this week. Will finish Neebish Island, Drummond Island, Goetzville, Pickford in the next week.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The reiteration of our COVID 19 Preparedness and Response plan was predicated by a neighboring CRC having to shut down one of their garages (nearly ½ of their staff) due to exposure by one employee.
- There have been preliminary discussion with MDOT to create an inter-agency agreement between MDOT and neighboring road commissions as part of a contingency plan in the event a facility is shut down during snow season. We want to ensure routes, especially the primary routes, are covered. In the coming weeks we hope to have more information.
- The guardrail project started Monday. Removal of the old materials was done quickly. Installing the new replacements is taking time.
- Last week, he met with Soo Township to answer questions regarding the Nicolet project. Due to the road's crown shape and its affect on safety, we have agreed to change the scope of the work to include some crushing and shaping. The township board expressed their disapproval of the events that took place where one of the road commission board members and other staff were verbally and harshly criticized by a resident.
- Received a letter from DeTour Township expressing how satisfied they are with the results of Spring Bay Road.
- The recent practice of Cloverland Electric has been to require duplicate permits for work regarding a utility drop of new electrical service to residents. Mackinaw County has shared their acquired legal opinion on the matter, informing Cloverland that only the electric company is required to pull a permit. We will be informing Cloverland of the same.
- Pickford School - working with the school to change traffic pattern on Pleasant Street.
- The stone work on M123 looks great. The stone was acquired from Graymont and Norris.
- We got to have a preliminary meet with the new City Engineer to discuss upcoming projects and available small urban funding.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**County Commissioners Comments**

Nothing at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nothing at this time.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer noted rutting in the south bound lane of Ranger Road. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Timmer acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the work of law enforcement presence in work zones and wished everyone to "stay safe".

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard Timmer  
Chairman