

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, Michigan on May 8, 2014.

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Timmer, LaJoie and Ormsbee, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Clerk McDowell, Assistant Engineer Deatrick, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Surveyor Wiggins and Chief Mechanic Avery

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee that the Payroll in the amount of \$115,582.00 and Vouchers in the amount of \$285,768.10 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve minutes from the Regular and Special Meetings held on April 24, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Working on grading our gravel roads
- Repairing some sink holes and failed culverts
- Working on getting summer equipment ready
- Working in the 15 Mile pit

Foreman Pesola

- Patching roads and working on changing out some failed pipes
- Working with brush hog
- Preparing crack sealer to start next week

Foreman McConkey

- Working on getting summer equipment ready
- Reviewing culvert replacements for permits
- Dragging our gravel roads

Office Manager Decker stated in reviewing our inventory of culvert pipe and determining it was low had called the winning bidder from last year to see if they would be willing to extend their pricing. He was informed that they would be willing to extend current pricing on culverts until June of 2015.

Manager Laitinen indicated there is no mutual extension clause, but there is no end date within the bid either.

Discussion ensued on what would be in the best interest of the Road Commission and having language in the next bid package rewritten to address extensions.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to authorize culvert purchases under an extended bid pricing through June 2015 and readdress it at that time.

MOTION CARRIED

Office Manager Decker informed the Board that he would be attending the Finance & HR Seminar in Traverse City next week Tuesday and Wednesday.

Assistant Engineer Deatruck

- Should be a July letting on bridge approach project.
- Increase in failed driveway culverts this year
- Potential date of May 19th for lifting weight restrictions
- Low bidder was Payne & Dolan for 1 ½ Mile Road project on Sugar Island. Bid came in 10.86% over engineers estimates so needed to do justification letter. Discussion ensued.

Union President Hopper inquired about use of filter cloth on culvert installation and if any agreement had been reached with the Forest Service regarding maintenance of roads.

Manager Laitinen gave an account of use of filter cloth and plastic culvert use. He indicated he sent back his comments to the Forest Service regarding the agreement.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Bid for 1 ½ Mile Road came in at 10.86% over, which amounts to an increase to our share of just over 2,000.00.
- Gave testimony in Lansing last week regarding House Bills for road funding. This went very well.
- Was on 95.1 radio to discuss road conditions and road funding.

- Road Funding Bills were favorably voted out of committee yesterday. If passed would mean approximately 1 million in funding for us annually.
- Received letter and old draft of a previously proposed consent agreement from DEQ to begin settlement discussion.
- MSHA Training was completed this week.
- Agenda has been developed for the annual safety meeting to be held here on May 20th, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and invited Commissioners to address staff if they wished.
- Will hold Little Rapids progress meeting here at the Road Commission on Friday, May 16th.
- Reviewed RTF/MDOT/CRAM Agreement.
- Will not be able to attend the U.P. Road Builders meeting in June due to family commitments.
- Accepted an invitation from AIS to tour their John Deere production facility in Illinois for two days in early June at their expense.

Manager Laitinen presented Resolution #2014-02 in support of Small Urban Program funding for the Sault Urban area. The resolution endorses the submission of application for improvements to Baker Side Road between 3 & 5 Mile Road for the 2014-2017 application period.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to adopt Resolution #2014-02 for Small Urban Funding for Sault Urban Area as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Manager Laitinen presented Resolution #2014-03 in support of Small Urban Program funding for the Kinross Urban area. The resolution endorses the submission of application for improvements to Kincheloe Drive and Gaines Hwy for the 2014-2017 application period. Kincheloe Drive would be the first priority listed.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to adopt Resolution #2014-03 in support of Small Urban Program Funding for Kinross Charter Township Urban Area as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Manager Laitinen presented Resolution #2014-04 to allow the use of County Roads for a designated ORV trail. The resolution would support the establishment of a designated 6 foot wide ORV trail by SORVA over the following Chippewa County Roadways: Irish Line Road, South Sunset Street, Railroad Street, West 6 Mile Road and Kirvan Street in Superior Township. This route would be known as the Soo-Raco ORV route.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to adopt Resolution #2014-04 for the establishment of a dedicated ORV trail upon Chippewa County Roads as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Manager Laitinen presented Resolution #2014-05 which would support the establishment of a designated 6 foot wide ORV trail over 2.5 miles of West Huckleberry Lake Road from the Carp River Truck Trail to the old DSS&A railroad grade in Trout Lake Township.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to adopt Resolution #2014-05 supporting establishment of an ORV route as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Nathan Fazer with E.U.P. Regional Planning touched on the huge breakdown in communications between MDOT and the regions in regards to RTF program structuring. He also indicated he has been working with the Forest Service and the SORVA group to try and help them establish the ORV trails.

He gave an overview of a grant opportunity to coordinate a GIS mapping system involving Mackinac and Chippewa Counties. The grant application deadline is June 25th. He indicated he would be back to present further information in early June and to ask for formal support from us.

Manager Laitinen stated overall he thinks this would be great to have access to such a data base, but also has some concerns with liability issues which could arise out of having certain information on this system.

Manager Laitinen opened discussion on extending the current fuel bid and authorization to take bids for fuel oils. We are currently at the time of year when we would typically take bids for both fuel and oil products. Last year we did include an extension clause within the fuel bid specifications. After a review of the past one year period Autore Oil has consistently held their margin and their wholesale rack price has been between .01 to .04 cents lower per gallon than that of Crystal Flash. Manager Laitinen stated that both Autore Oil and Shute Oil were willing to extend the same margin as last year.

Manager Laitinen recommended extending the fuel contract with Autore Oil and Shute Oil for a one year period.

He then asked for authorization to take bids for the heavy oil and grease products.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to extend the fuel contract for one year and to authorize Manager Laitinen to take bids for oil products.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore stated Chippewa County is listed with Marquette on request for emergency funding. He stated that Kinross Township had some major water break repairs.

Supervisor Moore informed the Board that he has been negotiating with Manager Laitinen for his help in trying to secure funding for repairs to the storm drains in the Kincheloe housing area.

Supervisor Moore stated that Cloverland Electric is currently working on replacing the power poles along Water Tower Drive and asked that we contact them about relocating the poles back 4 or 5 feet.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee stated that when we are asking for quotes on the rebuilding of our lobby entrance that we also include work for enclosing at least one side of the breezeway between the garage and the lobby office.

Commissioner Ormsbee suggested that we should start looking for a new vehicle for Manager Laitinen so he could pass down his old one to Assistant Engineer Deatrck.

Commissioner LaJoie stated crews continue to do a great job.

Commissioner Timmer indicated CRAM is looking to change their name to MCRA.

Manager Laitinen stated he we also have been looking at adding an addition off the north side of the storage building located in our back yard.

Assistant Engineer Deatrck stated construction on Ploegstra Road is tentatively scheduled to start May 19th.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman