

**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 December 18, 2014.

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

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Timmer and Commissioner LaJoie, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Clerk McDowell, Engineer Krouth, Project Manager Deatrick, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Foreman McConkey and Union President Hopper.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Ormsbee and Chief Mechanic Avery

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$140,936.26 and Vouchers in the amount of \$322,565.27 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer that the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 4, 2014 and the Special Meeting held on December 15, 2014 be approved and placed on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore thanked the driver who is responsible for plowing the Kincheloe housing area for doing a great job. He commented on the rough condition of I-75 between the Kinross and Gaines Hwy exit ramps. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Pesola

- Performing winter maintenance
- Clearing project on Lost Lake Road

Foreman Erickson

- Performing winter maintenance
- Working on water problems
- Mechanics busy keeping equipment running

Foreman McConkey

- Performing winter maintenance
- Dealing with a few beaver problems

Office Manager Decker

- Provided press release indicating the Road Commission has been awarded \$100,000.00 from the Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund. These monies were to provide financial assistance to Michigan counties impacted by last year's flooding and deep freeze emergency. He thanked Tim McKee from 911 for his efforts in his help with the application and who initially had informed him of the availability of funding through this program.
- Recognized Perry Ross, Foreman at our Rudyard garage for bring a situation to light which was taking place at Shute's station when our trucks were filling up. He explained that after reviewing gas charged on our credit card it was discovered that we weren't receiving a credit for sales tax. He received an email yesterday indicating we will be receiving a refund of 6,222.00 covering the time period from February through November and maybe more once they review other months.
- Working on yearend with copies of the proposed budget available on December 29<sup>th</sup> for public inspection.

Engineer Krouth

- Waiting on front entrance door before the front entrance remodel can begin.

Project Manager Deatruck

- GI plans for the Mackinac Trail from Gains Hwy to 12 Mile Road have been submitted to Lansing.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**-None

Manager Laitinen reviewed situation regarding Commissioner elect Rudy Johnson who is currently working for us as a temporary plow driver out of our Eckerman garage and whom is scheduled to be sworn into office the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. He and Rudy have had numerous conversations regarding the law and also the clarification of that law from two different Attorney Generals opinions indicating this would be a conflict of interest.

Rudy came to him earlier this week with a request to finish this winter season and then accept a leave of absence.

Discussion ensued.

Manager Laitinen recommended that we issue Rudy Johnson a leave of absence to begin on December 31, 2014. Mr. Johnson would be eligible to be reemployed by the Road Commission if his duties as an elected official were to change.

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Timmer to offer a leave of absence to Mr. Rudy Johnson beginning at the end of his normal shift on December 31, 2014 and allow eligibility for re-employment at a point and time his duties as County Commissioner are no longer a conflict.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MANAGERS REPORT**

- Watching funding issues going on in Lansing very closely. Conference committee hearings are scheduled at 8:30 a.m. today and involve House Bills 5477 gas tax, 4630 registration fees and 4539 which involves repeal of sales tax as it relates to gas and diesel fuels. Discussion followed on how involved and what a great job CRAM is doing in staying on top of issues related to road funding.
- Working on DEQ counter proposal with our Attorney Ed McNealy. Going well and are moving into the discovery phase.
- Reviewed BIA Funding requirements which have changed for the billing and reimbursement process for the storm damage on Sugar Island.
- Beginning working on balancing numbers for upcoming Rural Task Force Meeting to be held on the afternoon of December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended road safety meetings held to discuss the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Mackinac Trail and the Business Spur. They were working on identifying possible safety short falls of the roundabout.
- Completed the development of specifications for tandem trucks which are currently out for bid. Currently working on hydraulic equipment specifications for the new trucks.
- Thanked Office Mgr. Decker for his efforts to justify time, labor and equipment when applying for funds through Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund which we have been approved to receive \$100,000.00.

**PUBIC COMMENTS**

Union President Hopper inquired to who gives MDOT their authority over certain issues.

Manager Laitinen indicated MDOT reports to an Executive Branch. We are considered a sub recipient and when dealing with federal dollars it is left up to MDOT on how they wish to allocate these funds. The only regulation imposed on MDOT is that of the federal dollars allotted to them 25% must be distributed back to local entities. So there are very few regulations written.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner LaJoie thanked everyone for the opportunity of working with them over the last six years. "Keep up the good work".

Manager Laitinen thanked Commissioner LaJoie for his six years of service to the residents of Chippewa County and invited him to stop in whenever he would like.

Chairman Timmer thanked Commissioner LaJoie for his service and the crews for a job well done.

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

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Christine A. McDowell  
Secretary for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman