

**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 March 7, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Surveyor Wiggins, Union President Mills, and Clerk Ranta

**ABSENT:** Engineer VanDorn, Foreman Goodman, Project Manager Jere, and Chief Mechanic Marsh

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the agenda for on March 7, 2019.

Manager Laitinen asked to add Manager Vehicle as a new agenda item. Chairman Timmer labeled it item "c" under new business.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$200,602.66 and Vouchers in the amount of \$332,617.14 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

Office Manager Decker stated that the State Maintenance Funds will be close to \$600,000 this month. Manager Laitinen noted that the payroll amount reflects an increase in the crew's overtime hours due to the most recent storm.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes on February 21, 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore expressed his concern of the roughness of the roads which have occurred due to the frost, warming and freezing weather conditions. Discussion ensued.

Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis mentioned his concern about spring break-up and potential pavement issues. Discussion ensued.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Erickson

- We have been extremely busy since the last storm occurred. Cannot complement the crew enough on their dedication to plowing the roads. Two staff came to work on snow machines. Very fortunate to have this crew. While the majority of roads like I-75, and M-129 remained closed due to visibility, high winds and drifts, our crews remained vigilant and we got them reopened quickly.
- Working on corner visibility. Cutting back the banks.
- Started receiving calls regarding water issues.
- Guys are doing a great job!

Foreman McConkey

- Would like to reiterate what Forman Erickson said. We have a great crew. It is not easy to plow in a wind storm.
- Water problems. Water is flowing under the snow. Opening up the culverts.
- Had a few break downs, but the spares are working well.
- Winging back the banks.
- New mechanic is working out well. He is full of energy.

Surveyor Wiggins

- Caught up on wetland and culvert permits. Received culvert permit for Lakeshore Drive.
- Have been working on Act 51 Maps.
- Working on new maps for Keith and the guys in the garage. The map separates primary roads from local roads. It also lists gravel pit locations. The map helps the new employees.

Office Manager Decker

- The auditors are in this week and have been working with them.
- Finishing up I.T. issues.

Union President Mills

- No Report

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Would like to pass on thanks to all the crew for their dedication and work ethic that was displayed during the last storm.
- All major roads were closed with the exception of Mackinac Trail which had escorts throughout the day. Recap of Monday's storm was shared. Discussion ensued.
- Our new engineer is working out very well. The Lakeshore Drive job program application and permits have been completed.
- Lansing has assigned two different federal job numbers to this project and is working to correct the issue. Both were approved.

- Final historic and SHPO clearance for the Lakeshore Drive project has been approved. Running tight on the estimate.
- Office improvement is going well. Construction begins on the wall of the engineer's office next week.
- Safety meeting for MSHA is scheduled for April 24 and 25.
- Annual staff safety meeting will be held May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, at Bruce Township Hall. Lunch will be provided.
- Working with Whitefish Township on a grant for a pedestrian bridge and ORV/snowmobile bridge which would be located at the mouth of the Tahquamenon River. Also wanted the bridge to serve as a one lane alternative for traffic should something happen to the highway bridge. Discussion ensued.
- Whitefish Township requested and would like to obtain ownership of the old county garage.
- Spoke about Governor Whitmer's proposed gas tax. Discussion ensued.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### a. Approval of Act 51 Maps

Added Industrial Park Drive to the Act 51 Maps. First time we are able to submit the maps electronically and do not have to manually print them out.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve and support the ACT 51 Maps act and allow Chairman Timmer to sign the maps.

**MOTION CARRIED**

##### b. Sugar Island Backhoe

Recently lost the engine on the JCB Backhoe on Sugar Island. It is a repairable machine, but not repairable in the time frame in which we need it with the spring thaw approaching. Received rental quotes from vendors. John Deere won the rental quote. This machine is also available for purchase through the MiDeal program.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve to rent a backhoe for Sugar Island and leave the option to purchase with Manager Laitinen, not to exceed the MiDeal Price.

**MOTION CARRIED**

##### c. Manager's Vehicle

This is an item budget for this year. Engineer VanDorn is now driving Manager Laitinen's former vehicle while he is using

the GMC Terrain. The vehicle has served its purpose well, but it is now time to retire it. Would like to offer the GMC Terrain up for bid and go through the MiDeal program to purchase a full-size Ford Expedition. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the purchase of a full-size Ford Expedition not to exceed \$40,995 through MiDeal and to put the GMC Terrain up for bid with a minimum Kelly Blue Book (KBB) trade value to offset any overture to the purchase of the Manager's vehicle.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore expressed his thanks for getting the excavator out to the Kinross area and cutting back the banks.
- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis expressed his appreciation and thanked the Road Commission for the job the road commission has done, especially after the most recent storm. While many things were shut down, we were able to open up the roads and keep things moving.
- On behalf of Foreman Goodman who was unable to attend the meeting, Foreman Erickson thanked Dean's crew for their hard work during and after the most recent storm.
- Manager Laitinen extended an invitation to see a demonstration of a new type of snow blower at the International Bridge this Monday, March 11, 2019 at 9:00am. Discussion ensued.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

- Chairman Timmer concluded by encouraging everyone to stay safe and stay tuned for further road funding news from Lansing.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

---

Stephanie A Ranta  
Clerk for the Board

---

Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman