

**A REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioner was held in their offices located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on May 22, 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 Deatricks, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Pesola, Foreman Erickson, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ABSENT:**

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie that the Payroll in the amount of \$112,190.02 and Vouchers in the amount of \$116,943.86 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 8, 2014 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jesse Knoll indicated roads on Sugar Island are in great shape.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Pesola

- Reported on accident which occurred last week on M-28 where a truck overturned spilling contents out onto roadway. Our crews did a great job in helping to close down M-28 for more than 4 hours.
- Performing crack sealing
- Grading our gravel roads and working on state shoulders

Foreman Erickson

- General road maintenance
- Hoping to get AMZ machine out next week
- Performing shoulder work on county and state roads
- Ditch cleanouts

Foreman McConkey

- Performed some garage repairs
- General road maintenance
- Shoulder work on M-48

Surveyor Wiggins

- Reported on DEQ site reviews performed last week. Things went well new representative is much easier to work with. Will be working on completing permits for areas where they are needed.

Office Manager Decker

- Safety meeting was held last week and went very well.
- Attended the Finance and HR Conference in Traverse City last week. Sessions were held discussing OPEB strategies being used to work these liabilities down, GASB 68 which deals with the pension side and the recording of these figures on the financials, and PA506 which mandates that beginning in September of 2014 certain information will be required to be visible on our website.

Assistant Engineer Deatrick

- Ploegstra Road detour signs are in place but will not begin work until June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Final set of plans have been submitted for the federal aid HMA resurfacing and guardrail work and have received obligation for this project. Scheduled to be in the July bid letting.
- Seasonal weight restrictions were lifted on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- General equipment maintenance

Union President Hopper

- Reported on a possible culvert issue on Tilson Road at Mud Creek.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**-None

**MANAGERS REPORT**

- Reported on meeting held with our state maintenance coordinator regarding final numbers from our winter budget.
- MDOT has some scheduled paving projects, but are ignoring the failing culverts. MDOT may have to take care of them through some form of emergency funding.
- Transportation funding bills have been reported out of senate committee yesterday with a favorable recommendation. They were reportedly on the list for the afternoon but unable to find out if they were voted on. The funding bill which came out of the

house was for 450 million amended in the senate and came out at around 1.5 billion graduated over a 5 year period.

- Reported on annual safety meeting held on Tuesday of this week. Great topics very relevant.
- Meeting scheduled today with Gary Nitz to finalize the plans for our new salt barn construction. We will be forwarding these plans onto MDOT. Site work will begin at the site next week.
- Gave an update on meeting held here last Friday to review the Sugar Island Causeway project. The project should be advertized next week and final award of the contract will be sometime in October.
- Received email from Jeff Bradley, BIA who has been handling our storm damage on Sugar Island. Reviewed the status and the process which will occur for reimbursements.
- Will meet next week with DEQ representative and their contracted driller to visit sites with underground storage tanks which were placed on the DEQ open list. Through a DEQ grant there is funding available to monitor and perform sampling at these sites free of charge to the Road Commission.
- Working on settlement document with the DEQ regarding legal issues.

Manager Laitinen opened discussions regarding the possibility of hiring a PE to help in the engineering department. He stated with the extra work we will have from the Sugar Island Causeway project, Sugar Island storm repair and our normal scheduled work he feels this might be a good time to bring on another person. He indicated he believes there are other grant opportunities out there which we could be applying for if we were to have the additional help. He stated within the Sugar Island Causeway project there was budgeted funds set up for engineering and through Act 51 we would receive \$10,000.00 per year for having a licensed professional engineer on staff.

Discussion ensued on starting salary and probationary period. Salary would be around \$50,000.00 to be reevaluated after a one year probationary period.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to authorize Manager Laitinen to advertize for the hiring of a Professional Engineer.

Assistant Engineer Deatrck stated this individual would be doing a lot of what he currently is responsible for. He indicated ideally he would like to continue to work here for another two years, but doesn't know if this will be possible.

Commissioner Ormsbee stated it's going to take a good part of a year to get someone trained and to obtain certain certifications.

Assistant Engineer Deatrck indicated that it will take an individual two years to learn the MDOT system.

Manager Laitinen stated this individual is not to replace Assistant Engineer Deatrck, but to enhance the engineering department.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jess Knoll inquired if the Sugar Island 1½ Mile Road project was still on target for this year.

Manager Laitinen confirmed that it was still scheduled for this year.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer indicated he had opportunity to meet the new Director of Federal Forest who had done some homework on the CCRC and gave our crews some great compliments. Looking forward to working with him.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

---

Christine A. McDowell  
Secretary for the Board

---

Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman