

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their office located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on October 22, 2015.

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 Krouth, Project Manager Deatruck, Clerk Price, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Commissioner Ormsbee, Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer asked for any additions to the agenda. Manager Laitinen asked to add discussion of Darrin's Way and Blalock ROW.

MOTION by Chairman Timmer **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to amend the agenda to add discussion of Darrin's Way and Blalock ROW and approve agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$114,538.84 and Vouchers in the amount of \$338,339.88 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 8, 2015 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore asked if the Township was able to get (Short Cut Road) built yet this fall if the Road Commission would plow it this winter season. Manager Laitinen stated that it is a possibility to enter into a Lane Plowing Contract for this season. Supervisor Moore stated that the Township doesn't have funds designated to plow the road this season and if we can't take it on then they would wait and have the road built next spring. Both parties agreed to gather more information and add it to the next agenda.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Pesola

- Putting up Ice/Sand
- Getting the plows put on the trucks and ready for winter
- Did a few culvert changes
- Winter preparation and snow staking

Foreman Erickson

- Ditch clean outs
- Changing culverts
- Putting up Ice/Sand
- Winter preparation and snow staking
- Moved Screen Plant to the Soo

Foreman McConkey

- Working with the new Grader
- Changing culverts
- Putting up Ice/Sand
- Winter preparation and snow staking
- Garage Maintenance

Office Manager Decker

- Attended the U.P. Clerks Meeting in Negaunee MI. discussion items included Performance Audits and the changes to the Workers Comp pool.
- Big thank you to Clerk Ranta for her hard work repainting the office!
- Will have September Financials ready for the next meeting.

Project Manager Deatrck

- Had the preliminary GI meeting for the Federal Aid pavement marking package. Five various areas totaling 53K have been approved and will most likely be in the January MDOT bid letting.
- Informed the Board that it has been decided to delay the HMA Milling and Pavement replacement on Mackinac Trail until next spring.

Engineer Krouth

- Kick off meetings were held in our Conference Room for the Sugar Island Project on Wednesday October 14th at 2:00 to go over logistics and at 3:30 for the project stakeholders. A third meeting was held that evening at 6:00 at the Sugar Island Township Hall to introduce the public to the contractors. Several residents were in attendance. All meetings went well.
- Had a phone conference with S.I. project team and our first progress meeting on Tuesday with the Contractor. The 30% plans have been turned in.
- The Sugar Island culvert replacement project will begin today. The project should take two weeks.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Took delivery of our 5th new truck. This truck is set up for the left side of the freeway.
- Had an extra man in the shop this week. Getting all caught up and ready for the weather.
- Case Grader is in use, working out some small bugs.

Union President Hopper

- No Report

MANAGERS REPORT

- Attended the kick off meetings with Engineer Krouth for the Sugar Island Project. About 30 residents were in attendance with very little opposition. Discussion ensued.
- On Tuesday October 27th a winter safety meeting will be held here in the Sault garage. The meeting should last about an hour and will cover usage of the wing plows and safe plowing practices when encountering our Amish residents.
- On December 8th CRAM is holding a Road Funding learning series. Engineer Krouth and Clerks Price and Ranta will be attending.
- Manager Laitinen gave an update to the Board on the activity in Lansing regarding Road Funding. Discussion ensued.
- The Retiree Health Care Arbitration hearing is scheduled for December 1st here.
- Staff will be moving to the Winter schedule starting Monday October 26th.
- Chief Mechanic Marsh has been working on an educational program with the Elementary Schools. Soo Township School is scheduled for early November.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS - None

APPROVAL OF MERCHANTS CAPITAL RESOURCES RESOLUTION FOR LEASE OF CASE GRADER AND AUTHORIZATION FOR OFFICE MANAGER DECKER TO SIGN.

Office Manager Decker explained that this is needed to process the Lease paperwork for the Case Grader.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer for the approval of Merchants Capital Resources resolution for lease of case grader and authorization for office Manager Decker to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL FOR BOARD SIGNATURES FOR PAVEMENT MARKINGS ON VARIOUS FEDERAL AID ROUTES.

Project Manager Deatruck explained to the Board that this is part of the packet to be sent to MDOT for the Pavement Marking Federal Aid Package.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer for the approval of board signatures for pavement markings on various federal aid routes.

AWARD OF UNDERBODY DRAG BLADES BID

Manager Laitinen went over the five bids received in detail only four met specifications. Discussion ensued. Manager Laitinen recommends awarding the bid to Roland Machinery.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to award the underbody drag blades bid to Roland Machinery.

MOTION CARRIED

REVISIT DARRIN'S WAY AND BLALOCK ROW DISCUSSION

Manager Laitinen read to the Board Kinross Township Resolution #2015-15. It read in part "WHEREAS, the Township Board, as requested by the Road Commission agrees to fund any necessary future repairs to Darrin's Way with concerns regarding visible distress in the middle of the hill". Manager Laitinen stated that with this resolution the Township has complied with our requests.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept Darrin's Way into the County Road System.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen discussed the original plat set up of Blalock Row and the logistics of taking it onto our road system. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept Blalock ROW into the County Road System.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore asked Manager Laitinen if he had made contact with Cloverland Electric about moving the power poles at the Kinross/Thompson Road location. Project Manager Deatruck commented that Cloverland has acknowledged the request and has it scheduled to be done.

Union President Hopper asked about when the winter temps will be coming on. Manager Laitinen responded that they will be phased in as the weather warrants. He then asked where the funds go for specialty license plate. Manager Laitinen responded that a small portion will go to the organization represented on the plate and the balance goes to the State. His last comment was, maybe we could go to the Tribe for extra funds. Manager Laitinen stated the Tribe/BIA has been very generous in funding road projects.

Engineer Krouth commented that the broken window in the shop has been repaired.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Chairman Timmer reported on the CRAM meeting he recently attended. Standardizing permits and permit fees were a main topic of discussion. Discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Board Secretary

Chairman Richard B. Timmer
Chairman of the Board