

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 January 28, 2016.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Krouth, Project Manager Deatrack, Clerk Price, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Pesola, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Surveyor Wiggins

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$177,069.87 and Vouchers in the amount of \$232,035.66 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2016 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Don McLean was here on behalf of SORVA (Sportsmen Off Road Vehicle Association) to talk to the Board about the proposed ORV trail from Sault Ste. Marie to Barbeau and then onto Pickford. He asked that Manager Laitinen have a look at the proposed route and get back to him with any concerns. Secondly, SORVA is considering a trail from the Trout Lake area to Newberry. Part of this trail would use Wilwin Road, again Mr. McLean asked that Manager Laitinen have a look at the proposed route. Lastly, SORVA is looking for a unit of Government to approach MDOT about opening up M-123 for ORV travel from the East West Road to Silver Creek. Discussion Ensued

Mr. McLean mentioned that Luce County had replaced their radio system and gave away their old one to various agencies. He asked if Chippewa County had any plans to do the same. Manager Laitinen explained that we replaced our radio's a few years ago and we still have parts of the old system. Mr. McLean mentioned that SORVA may be interested in acquiring some of the old radios.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Regular winter maintenance, rain, snow, sleet.

Foreman McConkey

- Plowing and salting. Temperatures not cooperating.
- B Roads cleaned up with the grader.
- Keeping up with truck breakdowns and maintenance.

Foreman Pesola

- Also dealing with equipment breakdowns.
- Regular winter maintenance.
- Grader out cutting back snow banks.

Office Manager Decker

- Working on year-end.
- Audit scheduled for the third week of February.

Project Manager Deatruck

- Preliminary G.I. plan meeting for Townline Road yesterday, May letting.

Engineer Krouth

- Little Rapids Project moving forward smoothly.

Chief Engineer Marsh

- Lots of small repairs
- Shop has been busy, five spares available.

Union President Hopper - No Report

MANAGERS REPORT

- Manager Laitinen notified the Board that Project Manager Deatruck was awarded Project Manager of the Year by Michigan County Road Association. A press release will be issued by CRA on February 1st at the Engineers Conference.
- Working on having a map of the County drawn on the wall. It would be a great tool to use during road discussions.

- Have been working on updates to the five year plan in preparation for the Rural Task Force Local Meeting being held here on February 10th at 11:00 a.m. The following week on February 16th the Area Rural Task Force will meet to input the new project information into the five year plan.
- Manager Laitinen informed the Board of a new type of pre-stressed concrete box culvert being planned for 12 Mile at the Charlotte River crossing. We have received a grant for \$75,000 from the Lake Superior Water Shed. U.P. Concrete Pipe is willing to absorb the engineering costs involved to get one of the new units in the ground as a showpiece. The estimated cost for the project is \$277,000. Additional discussion ensued.
- Went to the Soo Co-op Pre-School in Sault Ste Marie with employee Eric Brow to educate the children on plow safety. It's always time well spent and fun for the children.
- Have been working with Whitefish Township Supervisor Bill Mangham and local residents in procuring grant funds for the clean-up of the old Paradise garage location. It is their wish to convert it into a Township Park.
- From February 16th thru the 19th He and surveyor Wiggins will be attending the Surveyors Conference in Kalamazoo Michigan.
- Have been continuing to work with the MDOT contract negotiating committee. There is currently a disagreement between the committee and the CRA staff on how to handle the Winter/Summer budget issue. Discussion ensued.
- U.P. Road Builders Association Legislative Banquet will be held on March 15th at 7:00 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing in conjunction with the CRA Trade Show.
- We received an invite from Truck and Trailer to travel to Monroe WI. to the Monroe Equipment Show, May 3rd & 4th. Expenses are all paid by Truck and Trailer. He and Chief Mechanic Marsh plan on attending.

Commissioner Ormsbee asked County Commissioner McLean if he could ask the Sheriff to speak with the Amish Community about safety and using the reflective tape they have been provided. Commissioner McLean stated that he has the same safety concerns and will see if an additional contact with them may make a difference.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

County Commissioner McLean mentioned that the EDC has a wall map like we are proposing and it has been very useful.

County Commissioner McLean encouraged the Board and Management to visit the Chippewa County Airport to see the new runway plow that they have in use.

CRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

Manager Laitinen reviewed the one ballot option. His recommendation is that we support Michael A. Maloney from Ontonagon County.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to support Michael A. Maloney from Ontonagon County.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTUAL 2016 RAISES

Manager Laitinen reviewed the increases outlined in the Union Contract and asked that the same percentage be given to the non-union staff as well. Chairman Timmer mentioned that he would like to see a review system put in-place for non-union staff.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve contractual 2016 raises and to extend to non-union as well.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project Manager Deatruck announced to the Board that he will be retiring effective March 5th 2016.

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore thanked Randy Pesola and the crew for their great service in the Kincheloe/Kinross area.

Union President Hopper asked SORVA representative Don McLean if they would educate the public to use the paved portion of the road vs the gravel right-of-way. This would reduce the damage to the shoulder. Discussion ensued.

Foreman Erickson mentioned that Parts Manager Piche was at Truck and Trailer and picked up a green strobe light. These lights are in use in other Counties and are well liked. We are looking into using them on our trucks.

Office Manager Decker mentioned that he is researching a hands free Bluetooth adaptor to be used in the trucks.

County Commissioner McLean wanted to commend the staff on the great job done keeping up the roads.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee reminded the staff to stay safe.

Commissioner Gagnon mentioned that the new and proposed ORV trails looked really cool!

Chairman Timmer thanked the guys for keeping the road safe for all of us.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Board Secretary

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman of the Board