

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, MI on March 18, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon (via ZOOM), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Mills.

ABSENT: Foreman Goodman.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Barron, Bruce Township Supervisor Marsh, and Brad Ormsbee.

Manager Laitinen requested a road agreement for Bruce Township be added to the agenda under item a.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept the agenda with the addition of the road agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that Payroll in the amount of \$171,112.29 and Vouchers in the amount of \$544,585.65 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 regular meeting minutes from March 4, 2021 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None at this time.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Audit is complete and reviewed. An exit interview with the auditors will be scheduled for sometime around the end of April.
- Spent a couple of hours training with Phil Wolf, CPA at Anderson Tackman, covering the GASB 34 calculations in anticipation of his retirement in a few years.

Superintendent Erickson

- Dealing with a little bit of everything. Still doing some winter maintenance. Working on some water issues and steaming some

culverts. Grading and cold patching as weather and thaw allows. Working on getting sand ready on Sugar Island for upcoming projects.

- Frost is coming out slow this year and is good for the roads. No major issues arising.
- Thanked Brad Ormsbee for his years of service. It's been a pleasure to work with him and good luck in the future.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Thank you to the crews we work with. Our crew makes it easy to get things done. They know what to do, how it needs to be done, and they get it done.

Clerk Christensen

- John Bodar with MIOSHA is impressed with how the road commission has worked through COVID-19 and challenges that came with a major pandemic. Because of our commitment to the safety of our crew and the innovative ways we stayed compliant, he has entered Chippewa County Road Commission into their Ambassador Program. As a member of the program, it signifies that we are working with MIOSHA to understand and apply directives so we can stay compliant, stay open, and stay safe.
- Working on a couple of grants. One is with the county for financial relief related to COVID costs and if awarded will help offset payroll costs. The other is a fuel transformation grant as a way to upgrade the fleet to more fuel efficient vehicles.
- Participated in an exercise with LEPC which ran an emergency scenario related to a major spring storm carrying numerous issues caused by rain, rapidly melting snow, sustained high winds, and power outages. The goal of the exercise was for the participating emergency agencies collaborating on identifying the needs of Chippewa County. Fuel availability became one of the primary concerns in scenario.
- The eye wash stations in the Sault, Eckerman, and Pickford garages will be completed by April 1st. Dan Jere has been a great help in coordinating the work and ensuring this project is completed by the set deadline.
- The scrap tire grant has been submitted.

Union President Mills

- All is good.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Working on 1st quarter reporting.
- Worked on equipment rental rates and hope to have them complete by the end of the week.

- o Met with the new hire and welcomed her to the area. Provided information to help get her acquainted with the area such as realtors, recreation activities, entertainment, etc.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- New backhoe was delivered. Its been outfitted with lights and delivered to Rudyard.
- Picked up a single axle from Truck & Trailer.
- Shopping for a new air compressor for the shop.
- Working on salt trucks, mowers, excavators. Getting things ready for the seasonal change of equipment.
- The new hoist is here early. It wasn't expected until May.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Hired a new Engineer to start on April 5. She comes with great experience in soils, geo-tech, paving, etc. We look forward to welcoming her.
- Received an invitation to run for the MCRCSIP Board. Chairman Timmer extended his support to pursue this, noting that participation in committees in groups and committees keeps our organization educated on matters related to our industry.
- Receiving inquiries regarding the vacant position on our board. Thanked Brad Ormsbee for his service and dedication to the board. Given the direct contact by those interested in serving, we should see a good pool of applicants.
- Worked with Brian and Bobbie on the millage renewal. Will be meeting the with City of Sault Ste. Marie and DeTour Village to request a portion of the cost of the election be shared. The cost associated with an off year ballot like this has increased substantially since the past one and our hope is to get some financial support from those entities that are named to receive funding.
- Completing the bridge funding applications that go with the resolutions to be covered under new business.
- In the process of purchasing culvert materials from last year's bids. There has been a delivery/timing issue identified. Through some phone calls and leg work, it has been identified that our sales rep passed away last winter. Prior to his passing, he earmarked materials for us, but never put the order through. The order is now in process.
- Contacted by Bruce Township. They are in the process of replacing their nearly new 12kw generator and we have negotiated an interagency trade, labor and gravel for this generator, which will be placed at the Sugar Island garage.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Bruce Township Road Agreement - Shunk Road from 5 Mile Road south approximately four (4) miles. Total cost to township \$65,121.00

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve and sign the Bruce Township Road Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) Resolution 2021-04 - Millage Renewal.

Manager Laitinen presented the five (5) year millage renewal.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve Resolution 2021-04 and move forward with the millage renewal and pursue funding from City of Sault Ste. Marie and DeTour Village.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

Manager Laitinen presented the resolutions necessary for several bridge funding applications to be sent to MDOT.

- C.) Resolution 2021-05 - Mackinac Trail Bridge over Chub Creek.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve resolution 2021-05.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- D.) Resolution 2021-06 - Mackinac Trail Bridge over Pine River.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve resolution 2021-06.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- E.) Resolution 2021-07 - Mackinac Trail Bridge over Charlotte River.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve resolution 2021-07.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- F.) Resolution 2021-08 - Bypass 12 Mile Bridge.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve resolution 2021-08.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- G.) Approval to award installation of Fuel System at Pickford and Eckerman -

The fuel systems for Pickford and Eckerman can be filled using a Sourcewell contract. RW Mercer has provided a quote of \$21,197.67 for each location to install a fuel pump and automated reporting system like the one installed at the Sault Garage. This price is anticipated to increase in April. New, above ground, tanks will have to go for bid for each location.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to sign the contract with RW Mercer for the installation of pumps and software.

MOTION CARRIED

- H.) COVID Update / Open Meetings -

Manager Laitinen presented the legal opinion provided by Wendy Hardt. Per the opinion letter dated March 17, 2021, after March 31, 2021, a public body may only hold an all-virtual public board meeting if there is a statewide or local state of emergency.

- I.) Review/Reaffirm Policies:

- i. Policy #9 - Drug Free Workplace Policy
- ii. Policy #10 - Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy

The review of these policies has been tabled until the next meeting on April 1, 2021.

County Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Barron reported the COVID Relief Bill includes funding to our local County Commission. Chippewa County should receive \$7.3M broken into two (2) installments, the first of which should be received in about 90 days. The county has up to three (3) years to use this funding, and all use of funds must be reported to the federal government.

Township Supervisor Marsh reported a new playground will be built on June 5, 2021 and volunteers to help with construction are needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer extended his gratitude to Brad for his service and perspective from the automotive side and wished him best of luck in his future endeavors.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman