

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 April 24, 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 Deatrick, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Erickson, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Foreman Pesola and Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee that the Payroll in the amount of \$149,594.49 and Vouchers in the amount of \$64,742.25 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 10, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Don McLean stated it has been a brutal winter and the road crews did a great job.

He then gave an update on the work that the SORVA group, which he is a member of, has been doing to establish a DNR recognized ORV trail from the Soo to Strongs. The trail would start east of Raco and end in the Soo and would eventually build connectors from there. SORVA is requesting support from the Road Commission for approval for use of the segments utilizing county roads.

Manager Laitinen indicated he did receive the proposal from the SORVA group and has also been contacted and is awaiting a copy of their proposal from a similar group out of Mackinac County.

Discussion ensued on a resolution in support of establishing a designated ORV trail which would utilize certain county roads. Manager Laitinen will have resolution prepared and ready for our next meeting.

Ms. Tina Love approached the Board requesting that Turner Road in Rudyard, which is a seasonal road, receive a little more maintenance throughout the year. She stated her appreciation for having her road snow plowed, but would like to see the road graded and a few loads of gravel applied every once in a while.

Manager Laitinen stated this is a very difficult situation. He indicated in the spring it's important for us to wait for the appropriate time to blade these roads. If we get on them when they are still soft then our heavy trucks just tear them up more. Turner Road is a clay based road and in the spring gets extremely soft.

Manager Laitinen suggested approaching the township to see if they would consider helping with improvements to the road through a township road agreement.

Manager Laitinen indicated we will try and keep up on grading of this road over the summer months and will look into getting a little gravel placed on it.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Still dealing with water problems and failed pipes.
- Working on patching pot holes.
- Have starting pulling sanders off trucks and preparing for construction season.
- Trying to grade our gravel roads as they dry out some.

Foreman McConkey

- Still steaming a few pipes
- Dragging roads when we can.

Office Manager Decker

- Audit meeting scheduled immediately following this meeting.
- Financials have been provide for the first quarter.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Busy in the shop preparing for summer construction
- Truck and trailer has been completed and is ready for pickup.

Assistant Engineer Deatrck

- 118 permits have been written
- Next Friday is the MDOT bid letting for Sugar Island 1 ½ Mile Road.
- Will hold the GI meeting tomorrow for the resurfacing of the 5 bridge approaches.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Road funding proposal seems to be gaining ground and is very encouraging. If approved would mean approximately 500 million statewide. 1.5 million for us after being processed through the distribution formula. Received an invitation from CRAM for Manager Laitinen and Chairman Timmer to testify at committee meeting in Lansing on Tuesday regarding road funding.
- Last week we held the Rural Task Force Meeting, the Soo Small Urban area and Kinross Small Urban area meetings, all of which are decision makers on disbursement of our federal aid funds. Manager Laitinen gave a brief run down on the 5 year plan indicating we did have to make some last minute adjustments.
- Received notice of appointment of new District Ranger for Forest Service Mr. Robert West coming from Montana.
- Soil borings at our new salt shed location should have been completed yesterday and should be ready for bid in early May.
- Reported on Safety Meeting he and others attended this week. Very well attended with some very relevant topics, high pressure fluid injection injuries.
- Received request from Chippewa County SORVA and a similar group out of Mackinac County to establish some designated and signed ORV trails upon some county roadways. Similar to snowmobile situation. Law allows them to be there and this would also relieve some of our liabilities as the group must maintain an insurance policy.
- Held conference call yesterday with labor arbitrator and Union Representative. First arbitration hearing is scheduled for May 28th at 10:00 a.m. here at the Road Commission office.
- Invited to attend a radio interview at Eagle 95.5 next Thursday at 8:30 a.m. to discuss road issues and road funding.
- Pursuing Category F Grant for a resurfacing of Mackinac Trail from 3 Mile to 6 Mile.
- MSHA Training will be held on May 6th and 7th and the annual safety meeting will be held May 20th.
- Will return to 10 hour days beginning May 5th.

Manager Laitinen presented and reviewed the Gravel Crushing Bids received on April 23, 2014. We received some very favorable prices with Con-Agg operated by Ken Norris being low bidder for all locations other than one.

Manager Laitinen recommended we proceed as in past and accept all bids with the understanding that Con-Agg would perform the work at the six locations they are low at and Payne & Dolan would perform the work at the Whitehouse Landing location unless there were issues of availability.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to accept all bids and award to low bidder at each location unless there is a scheduling conflict.

MOTION CARRIED

Office Manager Decker presented request to sign the 2013 Act 51 Attest Sheet which needs to be submitted to MDOT once we submit the report online. There are two signatures required his as Chief Financial Officer and Chairman Timmer's.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize the signatures required on the 2013 Act 51 Attest Sheet.

MOTION CARRIED

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee complimented crews on a great job taking care of all the water problems this spring and making it through winter without any major injuries.

Commissioner LaJoie thanked crews for a great job and hope they finally get a weekend to enjoy.

Commissioner Timmer attended commissioner's conference last week which had some great sessions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Discussion held on other means of possible funding for improvements to the Turner Road.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman