

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 October 9, 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, Engineer Askwith, Project Manager Laitinen, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Engineer Askwith, Project Mgr. Deatrck, Surveyor Wiggins and Foreman Pesola.

Chairman Timmer requested the addition of a discussion regarding power surcharges which will be implemented by Cloverland Electric Company. Chairman Timmer approved agenda as amended.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie that the Payroll in the amount of \$116,943.20 and Vouchers in the amount of \$449,320.89 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee that the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 25, 2014 be approved and placed on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Jessica Savoie stated she and her husband purchased a 10 acra parcel of land located on Meadow Lane in Rudyard Township approximately 10 years ago. She indicated there are currently three homes located along this road and each time a new residence was built the road was built up and extended. Mrs. Savoie inquired to how she might get the roadway extended to their property line.

Manager Laitinen stated a lot of the history happened prior to him, but his understanding was that the original access for the property along Meadow Lane was via bridge from town. The road was initially constructed coming in from 18 Mile south to avoid putting in a new bridge or a culvert. The history on this occurrence is very sketchy, but we have maintained this section of roadway and it has never been on our seasonal road system.

Manager Laitinen indicated our main job with the funds we receive is maintenance based. Any projects or improvements greater than this require 50% match from either township or a private party. The other 50% is matched by the Road Commission. He did ask that the local garage to apply a few loads of maintenance gravel to the roadway, but if any further improvements are needed then we would need township participation.

Discussion ensued on approximate cost of improvements. Manager Laitinen stated he would prepare an estimate and send it onto Rudyard Township.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Continue work on the 3 Mile Road project
- Screening out ice sand
- Working on gravel road maintenance
- Equipment maintenance

Foreman McConkey

- Working on Neebish Island ditching project
- General road maintenance
- Patching on paved roads
- Shoulder work on Drummond Island
- Equipment maintenance

Office Mgr. Decker

- Reported on application process for funds available through Act 390, Section 19 Emergency Management Act. Applications are due on Monday, October 13th. The request will need to be processed through the County Board.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Getting equipment ready for winter
- Reported on status of new truck

Union President Hopper stated he attended the MERS Annual Conference which was very well attended.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT

MANAGERS REPORT

- The CRAM Superintendents Conference was held last week in the Soo, but was unable to break away to attend.
- Received report back from damage appraiser on the brush hog which was destroyed by fire. The appraised value is around \$139,000.00, but the insured value was around \$165,000.00. He indicated we are looking at converting one of our case excavators

into a brush mowing machine and from the insurance proceeds would purchase a brush tree mulching head. We could then use the balance of the insurance proceeds to purchase a replacement excavator.

- Held arbitration hearing on Tuesday regarding BC/BS illustrative rate calculation disagreement. Testimony went well.
- Attended the winter operations meeting in Newberry yesterday. A good turnout by law enforcement, emergency management and road personnel. Reviewed closure procedures for any state trunk line. Will be setting up and holding a winter maintenance meeting here for local school transportation directors and law enforcement. Tentatively set for November 5th.
- Received email from MDEQ indicating we should have a full response in two weeks regarding our proposal. Held site visits with SESC representative and feel it went well. Attorney General ramping up and scheduling depositions early next month.
- We are beginning our yearly review of healthcare rates and options. No renewal rates from BC/BS yet. Have received preliminary numbers for Professional Benefits, which reflects retirees and spouses 65 and over. The new 2015 hard cap limitations have been released, with the only change to be an increase of 2.3%. We have discussed in the past the possibility of changing the dates of our coverage year. Instead of having a 02-01 to 01-31 coverage year shifting it to sometime in the summer to gain extra time to compare plans.
- Contacted by US Forrest Service indicating they have the funding available to build Teets Road/Bear Creek project and will be meeting with them next week to review.
- County paving work has started with grader currently working on Centerline Road.
- Thanked AIS Equipment for allowing us to use their demo 644 Deere loader.
- Miller Bradford was awarded the winning quotation for a rental unit for use at our salt barn this winter. The rental which is 100% reimbursed by the state will be \$3,200.00 per month for a Case 821.
- Next week October 16th we have been requested to participate in the State Farm Insurance display for new drivers. Asked if Union President Hopper would want to volunteer again this year.
- Night shift postings for state trunk lines will be sent out next week. State night patrol to begin Saturday, November 1st. We will have one additional patrol out of our Goetzville garage.
- Haven't spoken to all of the temps from last year, but we will be needing an additional person at Goetzville and potentially two more.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize Manager Laitinen to advertise and hire necessary winter temporary help.

MOTION CARRIED

Manager Laitinen presented Township Road Agreement with Rudyard Township for improvements to Centerline Road from M-48 southerly for 3 Miles to M-48. Improvements to Centerline Road consist of Fine grading, hot mix asphalt surfacing, pavement markings and gravel shoulders. Total township cost shall be \$236,966.00. This section of Centerline Road will be posted with a gross rating of 80,000 lbs.

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the Township Road Agreement with Rudyard Township as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Notice of the passing of Dee Schults a resident of Pickford who was always around helping the Pickford crew anyway he could.

Chairman Timmer asked that a card of sympathy be sent to Mr. Schults family.

After a brief explanation and discussion regarding power increases forthcoming from Cloverland Electric which will be affecting not only us but every user across the Upper Peninsula. Discussion on support for a Board Resolution supporting Cloverland's petition to have the legislature to place a stay on the process until they can look at changing the contract with We Energy. This resolution should be sent to all State and Local elected officials.

Chairman Timmer also recommended that all employees go to Cloverland's web site and sign the petition.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to pass a Resolution supporting Cloverland's petition protesting the power rated increase.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner LaJoie indicated crews are doing a great job.

Commissioner Ormsbee stated as we move into the winter season and overtime hours become inevitable that crews are reminded to get out of the truck when they are tired so as to keep everyone safe.

Chairman Timmer agreed that crews are doing a great job and to remember to keep safety first.

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

Christine A. McDowell
Secretary for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman