

**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 6, 2017.

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

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Project Manager Jere, Foreman Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Marsh and Union President Hopper.

**ABSENT:** Engineer Krouth, Surveyor Wiggins

Chairman Timmer approved agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$152,666.87 and Vouchers in the amount of \$287,332.59 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 March 23, 2017.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Policy Review:

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy was reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board with no changes.

The Heavy Hauling Policy was reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board with no changes.

The Smoking Policy was deleted. We follow State Law.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve and reaffirm the EEO and Heavy Hauling Policies and delete the Smoking Policy.

**MOTION CARRIED**

B. Discussion of Heavy Equipment Needs.

Manager Laitinen started the discussion with equipment needs for the upcoming construction season. Foremost on the list is the need for a new excavator. The current one is a 1995 CAT 320. If the current excavator goes down we are at a standstill with construction projects until it is fixed.

Manager Laitinen would like to lease a new Excavator with the option to buy.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize going to bid on a new Excavator.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore mentioned that Payne & Dolan has been hauling out of the Wilson Pit. The residents are concerned about the declining condition of the road.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Foreman Goodman

- Commended the Eckerman staff for the work they did organizing the garage. It's looking good.
- Dragging gravel roads.
- Patching pot holes.
- Stripping brush in the Kinross Pit.
- Clay Roads are still in bad shape.
- Repairs are taking place on the Eckerman Salt Shed. It had sustained some wind damage.

Chairman Timmer asked about the amount of frost left in the tubes. Manager Laitinen answered that it is clear out West and showing about 10" locally.

Foreman Erickson

- Grading gravel roads when conditions permit.
- General equipment maintenance.
- Screen Plant preparations
- Pulling sanders off the trucks.
- Pulling the fiberglass snow stakes for use next season.
- Cold Patching.
- Sign Crew very busy!

Foreman McConkey

- General maintenance and shop clean-up.
- Excavator and tree cutting work along Gogomain Rd.
- Pulling the fiberglass snow stakes.
- Dragging and Patching.

Office Manager Decker

- Audit Draft is back, no changes.
- Exit interview with Anderson Tackman will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- The February MTF check was 18.7% higher than the same month last year.
- ACT 51 almost done, asset management is all that is left.

Project Manager Jere

- The guys are wearing their safety vests and jackets much more consistently.
- Working on the Agenda for the Safety Meeting.
- Permit work.
- DEQ Inspections.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Getting the construction machinery ready.
- Removing rusted boxes from trucks.
- Sign Truck body research.

Union President Hopper

- Thanked the Night Crew for a good season.
- Brush hog work needed on Lakeshore Dr.
- Mentioned that the guardrail on the 6 Mile overpass needs repair.

**OLD BUSINESS** None

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS** None

**MANAGERS REPORT**

- Attended the annual Bridge Conference and gave a presentation on the planning and construction of the new Sugar Island Bridge. The report was well received. The same presentation will be given today to the Northern MI ASCE and also at the June Road Builders meeting.
- The Wetland Banking Guidance Document will be ready for adoption at the next meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The criterion for choosing projects is being developed. Funds for the first year may go unused. Currently only two U.P. Counties have shown interest.
- Per the DEQ settlement agreement Project Manager Jere will be attending soil erosion training. The required repair work will begin this season on North Hulbert Road. Discussion ensued.

- The RTF process is settled for now. Attended the RTF Oversight Committee training in Mt Pleasant and was very disappointed. The staff doing the training was very new and not able to answer funding questions.
- MDOT will be hosting Guardrail training. We will be sending six employees.
- Safety Meeting is April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- A Road Easement agreement for Griffin Place has been prepared and needs Chairman Timmers signature for it to be filed with the County.
- An MDOT planning meeting will be held tonight at the International Bridge Building.
- State load restrictions are coming off tonight.

Commissioner Ormsbee mentioned we should start Union Negotiations.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Foreman Erickson also commented on the great job done by the night crew over the Winter.

Kinross Township Supervisor mentioned several signs are down along M-80.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gagnon commended the crew on a good Winter.

Chairman Timmer thanked the crew for a job well done and reminded them to stay safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

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Amy L Price  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman