

**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 November 12, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee (via ZOOM), Commissioner Gagnon (via ZOOM), Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Superintendent Erickson, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Union President Mills.

**ABSENT:** Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

**GUEST PRESENT:** None.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that the Payroll in the amount of \$154,100.09 and Vouchers in the amount of \$355,172.26 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 October 29, 2020 and place them on file with a noted clarification in the Engineer's report that SIDOCK drew the plans on behalf of the Shipwreck Society.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Engineer VanDorn

- Submitted notices of resignation, effective November 25, 2020. Will work to have projects and documentation ready for a smooth transition.
- Local Paving -
  - Paving of 4 Mile Road is complete.
  - Nicolet Road is the only local road not finished due to a change order to the scope of the work.
  - No additional paving work to be completed for the remainder of the year.
  - Will work with Payne and Dolan to position Nicolet Road paving work at or near the top of their priorities for Spring 2021.

- We have a signed Memo of Understanding with the railway regarding the lighted stop sign at OJ Miller Road in Trout Lake.

Office Manager Decker

- Nothing at this time.

Superintendent Erickson

- The nice weather allowed us to change some pipes and grade some gravel roads.
- Finishing up winter fit-out of trucks.
- Next week looks like the start of some winter weather.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen -

- No Report.

Union President Mills

- Nothing at this time.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Received the third quarter MERS Statement of Fiduciary Net Position. The third quarter was another positive quarter and our investments made up more of the lost ground from the first quarter. If markets continue to trend upward, we should end the year with a relatively small gain in fund balance.
- Last Thursday, Governor Whitmer addressed the state and indicated that MIOSHA would be issuing a Remote Work order for offices to add a Remote Work policy to the COVID-19 Preparedness plan. On Friday, we had a discussion with a MIOSHA trainer to help us understand the impact it would have on our office. The MIOSHA trainer was able to provide specific examples of scenarios where working remotely would not be feasible.
- This week, we have started to see an increase in possible exposures to COVID in our facilities. We continue to work with foremen and staff to mitigate the spread and keep everyone safe.

Chief Mechanic Marsh - reported by Clerk Livermore

- Shop is busy.
- New truck for I75 ramps is nearing completion. It could be ready by the end of November or first part of December.
- Single axle boxes are in, but don't expect to see any of the new singles ready until mid-winter or later.
- Fitting trucks for winter. After the last sander is complete we will start on repairing plows and pushers.

- Started to use the new vehicle inspection/work order forms. It's going well.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- This week took off with COVID exposure calls. It is our understanding that the local health department is about 3-5 days behind on contact tracing.
- We are still waiting for the signed purchase agreement on the Neebish Island land acquisition. The title work is complete with no red flags. The purchase agreement included a clause providing 60 days from the signature date to complete the clean-up of the site. The clean-up has started. We expect to see the signed document soon.
- The gate on Pennington Road is becoming more of an issue. A 43 page document was emailed to the County Commissioners as well as the township. It included pictures, on the other side of the gate, of washed out road with a request for the township to refund taxes paid on this property. After several unanswered requests to the land owner to remove the gate allowing public access to this section of road, Manager Laitinen recommended the abandonment process for the section of road beyond the gate be initiated, at which point, all communication with the land owner will be process through the attorney.
- There is an obstruction at the end of Crawford Street in Superior Township. A certified letter was sent to the Superior Township Clerk and to the individual responsible for the obstruction indicating the need to have the obstruction removed as it will impact winter maintenance service to that section of road, affecting approximately seven (7) residents. No response has been received from either party.
- Erik Baron, the newly elected County Commissioner stopped into the office this week. We provided him with an update on the Pennington Road issue. He has asked to receive an email copy of our minutes and meeting invites.
- Attended the Straits Area Council meeting. Attendance was approximately 50/50 in person and virtual.
- We should receive the loader from Roland Machinery today or tomorrow for the Kinross salt shed.
- Working with Rural Task Force to adjust funding for upcoming projects due to past project overages on our part using funds that should have been allocated to Luce County. Our available funding for next year will be reduced by those amounts.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- None at this time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

#### **County Commissioners Comments**

Nothing at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gagnon inquired to when a search would start for the Engineer's position. Chairman Timmer requested the search start soon with interviews to start potentially in January.

Chairman Timmer wished everyone to Stay Safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard Timmer  
Chairman