

**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 June 25, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer VanDorn, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Payroll/HR/Board Clerk Livermore, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Mills, Clerk Christensen.

**ABSENT:** Foreman Rye

**GUEST PRESENT:** None

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$149,630.49 and Vouchers in the amount of \$2,402,749.36 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 10, 2020, with the following correction, and place them on file.

**\*Under Superintendent Erickson's report, second bullet, change "laying brine" to "doing the prep work for laying brine on some roads in Dafter."**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Engineer VanDorn

- Curley Lewis Highway and Ranger Road - markings are done and the final paperwork for MDOT is started.
- Gaines Highway - Milling has been started. Widening should start next week. The top will be delayed. We are waiting for mix design approval from MDOT.
- Local Paving - Kinross roads are milled and waiting on paving schedule. Rocky Point is being crushed and shaped.

Office Manager Decker

- The installation of the new fuel station in the Sault has begun. The necessity of this upgrade was evident when the pump failed this week and parts cannot be ordered.
- Fuel and oil bids were received this week.

Superintendent Erickson

- Been busy on the Nicolet project until the rain and flooding slowed us down.
- Crews are working on cold-patching and tree trimming.
- Roadside mowing has begun.

Foreman Goodman

- Rain has been a challenge.
- Mower is out and making progress.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Finished the CPR training in Eckerman and the Sault garages.
- WEX cards are set up and working as a back-up means for fuel. With the fuel pumps down, the cards for the Sault garage have been issued. The cards will be kept in the vault when not needed.
- Been working with AT&T First Net to transfer our cell phone and GPS service. The new GPS units are on the way. First Net is also working with us to identify areas we serve that have little or no cell service. First Net will give our staff priority on the cellular towers. Chairman Timmer requested CRA be provided a brief writeup of our efforts with First Net and the benefits this relationship will provide to the Road Commission and its staff.

Union President Mills

- Nothing at this time.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing at this time.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The new Cat and Komatsu loaders are here and being fit-out with radios, lights, etc.

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

- Finishing up the paperwork on the new loaders. We are looking at changing the four yard bucket to a 4 ¼ yard bucket. It is a more efficient bucket and better matched to the machine's size.
- The architect for Pickford Schools contacted us regarding possible roadway improvements at and around the school. We will re-visit the topic of redirecting the flow of traffic around the school.
- Finishing up the presentation for the County Commission on our OPEB Liability as well as some on-going road work.

- Working with the Pool attorney on a couple of cases. We received notice of intent regarding an accident at Bakerside Road and 6 Mile.
- A land survey of the Whitefish Township / Paradise property has identified who is the owner of record. This survey shows that property believed to belong to the Road Commission actually belongs to the Township and vise-versa as well as some building encroachment issues. We will continue to work with the Township on the clean-up of this area, but note that the survey shows more of the property and subsequent clean-up will fall on the township.
- Highway and county mowing, as noted in the foremen reports, has begun. S&S Mowing has been contracted to mow I-75.
- Met with the contractor on Drummond Island regarding road improvements to upsize drainage pipes and clear trees from the edge of the road.
- Engineer VanDorn and Manager Laitinen attended the MTA meeting in Kinross. It was a good opportunity to talk to the townships about some of the things going on in Lansing.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> is coming. The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of the holiday. Our crews are encouraged to participate in any of the parades that have not been canceled. We wish everyone a safe and happy Independence Day.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Fuel/Oil Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the results for the fuel/oil bids. It was recommended the Fuel bid be awarded to Shute Oil and Autore Oil based on their perspective locations.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award the 2020/2021 Fuel bid to Shute Oil and Autore Oil in their perspective locations..

**MOTION CARRIED**

Manager Laitinen recommended that the Oil bid be awarded to Northern Energy. He noted that this is the first year Lynn Auto has provided a bid for oil. While their bid was the low price for a couple of the products, they did not provide the required equivalency letter from the supplier as stated in the bid package.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to award the 2020/2021 oil bid to Northern Energy.

**MOTION CARRIED**

B. Transfer to OPEB Trust - Office Manager Decker made the recommendation to move \$300,000 from our account at Old Mission Bank to our OPEB Trust account.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to close our account at Old Mission Bank, transferring \$300,000 to the OPEB Trust at Morgan Stanley and the remaining balance to our account at Central Savings Bank.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**County Commissioners Comments**

Nothing at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Brian Mills complimented the results on Curley Lewis Highway and the chipseal work in Eckerman.

Manager Laitinen again encouraged participation in any of the upcoming parades that have not been canceled due to the pandemic.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer expressed a reminder that as people have become more relaxed with the virus, please continue to be diligent with the precautionary measures and stay safe.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard B. Timmer  
Chairman