

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 May 14, 2020. The meeting was conducted via tele-conference per the Governor's Executive Order 2020-48

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

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

ABSENT:

GUEST PRESENT: John Paradiso from ETNA (via tele-conference)

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$156,146.11 and Vouchers in the amount of \$360,125.28 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 regular meeting minutes from April 30, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer VanDorn

- Curley Lewis Highway - Crush and shaping is complete. Some of Payne and Dolan's equipment was stolen from the site, causing a delay in work today.
- Ranger Road - Crush and shaping began yesterday and should be completed tomorrow. Paving will begin after base course is complete at Curley Lewis.
- Many of the local Pickford streets have been completed. Francis and Harold Streets are on hold until prep work complete.
- Drummond Island paving is underway and should be completed early next week.
- Spring Bay paving should begin next week.

- Paving should begin next week in Bruce Township at 7 Mile and 12 Mile. Payne and Dolan will be sending a third paving crew.
- Chipseal should begin next week in Pickford and Eckerman.
- Culvert marking is ongoing. It has been slower due to the start of construction. Next week the intern will be assigned culvert marking.
- In April we received a letter from EGLE requesting more information regarding the Paradise Garage mixing zone determination, restrictive current for the site, and contamination plume. Mackinac Environmental has submitted a response letter and done some more on-site testing for an updated Final Assessment report. Discussion ensued.

Office Manager Decker

- First quarter financials are completed. April/May we billed townships for work under signed road agreements. We have started to receive those payments.
- It looks like MTF is trending downward approximately 27% due to COVID and the Stay Home orders from the Governor's office.
- We've completed multiple virtual trainings at the Pickford and Sault Garage.
- The first quarter MERS statement was presented. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Erickson

- Crews are busy.
- Rain is causing some water issues. We've changed out some failed culverts caused by the rain, including a failed pipe in Dafter.
- Gravel roads are being graded.
- Working on the shoulders of I-75.
- Still cleaning up trees from the January ice storm.

Foreman Goodman

- Water issues from the rain - ditching and changing culverts.

Foreman Rye

- Same issues with water.
- Springbay Road is ready to pave.

Clerk Christensen

- Set up MSHA training to be done remotely. Seems to have worked well.

Union President Mills

- Nothing at this time.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing at this time.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Keeping busy in the shop.
- Kenworth is scheduled to come here to do warranty work.
- The new excavator was delivered.
- We purchased a used forklift from ETNA for use outside.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Keeping track of the governor's statements and orders regarding the COVID pandemic and Stay Home Stay Safe orders. There has been no real change in our operations in the last two weeks, however, we have our full staff working from the office and garages full time again.
- Met with the local National Guard. Their equipment operator crew will be using our 15 Mile pit property for training.
- We are coordinating crews in the garages to keep ahead of the paving.
- Shoreline erosion at the Paradise Garage site is an issue. We received an offer of a permit from the Corp of Engineers for some work to slow this.
- Straits Area Council will meet next week via Zoom. We can share a link with anyone interested in attending.
- The MDOT plans for M28 and I75 to M129 have been received for review and comment.
- The excavator for Pickford was delivered yesterday. This is a nice piece of equipment.
- MSHA training went well and we have received favorable comments from the crews regarding the new delivery format.
- A big thank you to all the Foremen, working foremen, and all employees for the work done during the Stay Home Stay Safe order. Many employees worker nearly everyday of this order and it is much appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 update:

- Covered in earlier reports.

B. Authorization of signers for Central Savings Bank notes:

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to authorize Chairman Timmer and Manager Laitinen to sign the notes originated at Central Savings Bank.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Culvert Bids: Based on three of the four bids received containing identical pricing, Manager Laitinen recommended all bids be accepted, with the initial truck load to come from ETNA, in recognition of their significant investment in the area with their new building and yard. If subsequent truckloads are needed, we would order from Pickford. By ordering this way we ensure crews have the inventory needed and available and while supporting local business.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to award all bids and allow Manager Laitinen to order from where needed after initial truck load.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Office Manager Decker informed the Board that Jim Moore would like to purchase Chloride for township use.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to allow the road commission participation in the sale of Chloride at 2/3 of the cost to townships up to a maximum of \$1,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee initiated a state funding discussion, siting expected cuts in education funding and the use of furloughs for state workers to balance the budget. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Timmer stated there are several CRA sponsored webinars available that he would like to see us participate in.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman