

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 December 4, 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 Manager Decker, Project Engineer Deatrck, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Engineer Krouth, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Pesola, Clerk McDowell, and Chief Mechanic Avery.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONED** by Commissioner LaJoie that the Payroll in the amount of \$164,221.62 and Vouchers in the amount of \$182,354.87 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 November 20, 2014 be approved and placed on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jesse Knoll stated crews on Sugar Island are doing a great job keeping roads cleared.

Union President Hopper asked why the Business Spur wasn't plowed during the recent snow event and if the City has an agreement with the State similar to ours. Discussion ensued.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Winter maintenance operations.
- Taking care of water issues during warm-up.
- Back to full crew after hunting season.
- Dealing with several equipment breakdowns.

Foreman McConkey

- Winter maintenance operations.
- Taking care of water problems during short thaw.
- Not as much snow in the Southeast end of the County.
- Gravel roads in good shape.

Office Manager Decker

- Working on OBAMACARE Insurance fee. All large group self-employers have to report the number of life's insured. current fee is \$63 per head.
- Received notice from BC/BS that they approved our request for a date change.
- New Insurance rates have been computed; need to get with Manager Laitinen to review.
- Working on end of year reports.

Project Manager Deatruck

- First Federal Aid Project is ready to submit, plans are done.
- Final quantities all sent to MDOT for review for 2014 Federal Aid projects. Final review is in process.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Engineer Krouth is attending the Transportation and Environment Conference.
- A response was sent to MDEQ with copies mailed to all Government Officials. Working with Attorney Ed McNeely to tweak the proposal in hopes of making it more agreeable.
- Working with Office Manager Decker on 2015 budget and capital outlay items. Looking at purchasing 6 new trucks.
- Number's are in from BC/BS. Will be scheduling a meeting with Union President Hopper soon to discuss.
- Attending a Road Safety Audit Meeting at City Hall today. They will be discussing the Roundabout that is being considered at the Three Mile/Mackinac Trail/Business Spur location.
- Reported that we have been having many minor repairs on the trucks and that we lost an engine in truck number 599. A short block engine has been ordered to replace it and it should be back on the road shortly. The Shop has been busy!

- County Commissioner elect Rudy Johnson who is currently a winter temporary in Eckerman indicated that he disagrees with The Attorney General's opinion regarding employment with a Road Commission and serving as a County Commissioner. Manager Laitinen indicated that he will look into the matter and return to the next meeting with more information. Discussion Ensued.
- Staff is back to full strength and County nights started Monday December 1st.
- On December 30th at 10:00 am the Budget Meeting will be held and at 1:00 there will be a Public Hearing of the Rural Task Force where the five year plan will be discussed and adopted. Both being held at the Road Commission.
- Manager Laitinen discussed the two different Road Funding packages that are pending. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Office Manager Decker informed the Board that next year will have 27 rather 26 pay dates.

Jesse Knoll commented that the MEA just gave raises to their staff.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee thanked the staff for coming in from their vacations. He mentioned that there was a lot of overtime during the storms and that our drivers need to get the proper amount of rest between shifts to help ensure that we are playing our part in keeping the public safe. He saw on 9&10 News that we received 64 ½ inches of snow in November (Avg. 14") and that we had better roads then areas with very little snow.

Commissioner LaJoie thanked the crews for a great job.

Chairman Timmer also thanked crews for a great job. He mentioned that he has received positive comments from the community.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Amy L. Price
Deputy Clerk

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman