

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 July 27, 2017.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Ormsbee, Commissioner Gagnon, Manager Laitinen, Office Mgr. Decker, Engineer Krouth, Surveyor Wiggins, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Price, and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Project Manager Jere

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$138,068.30 and Vouchers in the amount of \$192,514.79 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore commented that he had received two concerns/requests from residents. In the Kinross Lake and Kallio Road area there was a gate across the road. The gate was taken out in a car accident and now there is a large pile of sand in its place. The other concern was regarding drainage on Ploegstra Road. Manager Laitinen said he was familiar with both situations. Supervisor Moore then thanked the crews for the brushing done along Tilson and Bound Roads.

Union President Hopper mentioned that Tower Rd. is in need of gravel and wondered if the Forest Service would be willing to donate some from their gravel pit. Manager Laitinen commented that during the last contract renewal with the Forest Service we asked that Tower Rd. be added to our maintenance. The road had been let go for several years and will take a bit to get it back in shape.

Sugar Island Township Supervisor Roy mentioned the grass mowing on the Island has been going well and presented two Township Road Contracts that were just approved by their Board. Manager Laitinen interjected that they are for paving of Whitehead Road and 3 Mile from Brassier to Westshore.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve the Sugar Island Township Road Agreements for paving of Whitehead and 3 Mile Roads.

MOTION CARRIED

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Erickson

- Continuing work on Lockhart Rd culvert replacement.
- Dragging and patching gravel roads.
- Sinkhole repairs on the Easterday/I-75 ramp.

Foreman McConkey

- Dragging gravel roads when possible.
- Ditches are full.
- Spring Bay Road ditching.
- Roadside grass cutting going well.
- Mechanic busy.

Foreman Goodman

- Prairie Road concrete culvert project.
- Case Brush Hog is running on Tilson Rd.
- Roadside grass cutting.

Office Manager Decker

- Financials are done for June.
- Active shooter training held here on the 25th.
- Healthcare research and rate renewal.
- Pension communications.
- The first order of 5000 snow stakes has arrived. An additional 5000 are ordered with 5000 remaining.

Engineer Krouth

- Little Rapids Project guardrail replacement taking place today. A plaque is being made listing the Partners in the project that will be mounted to the bridge. On Thursday August 24 at 1:00 PM a ceremony will be held to celebrate the project and those involved.
- Spent two days doing PASER rating on the west end of the County.
- Ongoing project work.
- Title sheet for the 9 Mile Project is complete and ready for Board and Manager approval.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop has been staying very busy. Many minor breakdowns.
- Sign Truck has been delivered to Truck & Trailer and a dump box was brought back.

Union President Hopper

- The Union would like to get some additional information on how the Insurance costs were calculated and suggested breaking out the active and retiree's to see if there is a savings.

Manager Laitinen

- Continuing to work on staffing increases and changes.
- Attended the Wetland Banking Board Meeting. It was a good meeting but no attendees from any Cities or Villages. MDOT and MDEQ were in attendance but still had no answers on what administrative services they will provide. The guidance document needed to rank applications has been approved with the understanding that it is a working document and subject to revision. The committee also approved an issuance of an REP to hire a Manager for the program.
- Attended the J.A.T.C. Meeting. Discussion focused on sediment discharges as they relate to large storm sewer systems. Also discussed were proposed endangered species, both plant and animal that may affect the way we work in the ROW.
- Continuing to gather road agreements for this paving season. Have to finish agreements for Kinross and Drummond Island Townships before going to bid.
- On Tuesday the office staff and Management received "Live Shooter Training." This was an eye-opening experience and was very well received. The trainers assessed the office building and gave suggestions on ways to increase safety. We would like to have them back in April for the Safety meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval and Signatures for the 9 Mile Project.

Due to significant savings from the Riverside Dr project and an increase in Federal allocation amounts we are able to fund the 9 Mile culvert change project. This project was previously approved and waiting for funding. A meeting was called to put the project on the active tip. This would go to bid this fall with 2018 construction.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to approve and sign the title page for the 9 Mile Culvert Replacement.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Timmer suggested setting up a work session to discuss how to go about funding large road projects like H-40 and possible alternatives to traditional paving.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore asked if Manager Laitinen had made contact with the Tribe regarding funding and the upcoming Forest Lodge project. Manager Laitinen answered that he is trying to set up a meeting today.

Supervisor Moore commented that he was impressed with the speed of the M-80 project. He asked when that would have the lines painted and rumble strip cut in. Manager Laitinen reminded Supervisor Moore that it was a State project and we are not aware of their timeline. He then asked about line painting on County Roads. Manager Laitinen indicated that a line painting package will be put together once the paving package is determined and will follow paving in the fall. Lastly Supervisor Moore mentioned that the waterline replacement project on Windemere Dr has started.

Union President Hopper would like to see the hiring done soon.

Manager Laitinen updated the Board on the status of an employee's ill son. He told the Board that the Union Contract allows for the donation of sick time from one employee to another in a time of need and that several people have donated time to help him through this difficult time. Manager Laitinen indicated that he been approached by staff that would like to help but would like to donate vacation time. The Board authorized Manager Laitinen to approve on a case by case basis.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Timmer reminded the crew's to stay safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Amy L Price
Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman