

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 28, 2020. The meeting was conducted via teleconference per the Governor's Executive Order 2020-48.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

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

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson

GUEST PRESENT: Ryan Riipi from Miller, Bradford, & Riseberg.
Mark Sellers from Fabick Cat, Brad Jackson from Roland Machine (via teleconference)

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to move item e.) Loader Bids to the top of New Business and approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon that the Payroll in the amount of \$153,634.44 and Vouchers in the amount of \$208,150.60 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 May 14, 2020 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer VanDorn

- Ranger Road - Paving and shoulder work complete. Paint markings are remaining.
- Curley Lewis - Base course and wedging complete. Top course started yesterday. Paving near complete and should wrap up next week.
- Local Paving - Trying to stay in front of the paving crews.
 - o Drummond Island is complete
 - o ½ of Rocky Point Complete
 - o Spring Bay Road Complete

- o South Caribou Lake Complete
- o Hewer Road paving today
- o 7 Mile Road overlay next week
- o Break in paving until crusher returns.
- Chip Seal Contract - Flex patch complete and beginning chip next week.
- Met with OHM regarding the 6 Mile bridge to review the project. The survey is started with soil borings to follow.
- Bridge inspections - Ayers will be here the week of June 8th to perform the yearly inspections of our critical bridges.
- The intern has been out marking culverts. Should wrap up next week.

Office Manager Decker

- Accounts payable will ramp up significantly in this next period as paving contracts are completed and processed for payment.
- We have received most of the township road agreement funding.
- MTF funding is down, but with the influx of cash from the road agreement and our current balances, we should be able to continue operations uninterrupted.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- Busy.
- Ploegstra Road graveled and paved.
- Prairie Road work is underway.
- Trout Lake work has started.
 - o Gravel from Graymont is good limestone and packs well.

Foreman Rye

- Working to stay ahead of the pavers.
- Rocky Point is close to completion.
- Spring Bay road is waiting for shoulders.

Clerk Christensen

- Have three left to complete the MSHA on-line training. Have found that the virtual training was about four (4) hours long and the on-line is about 8 (8) hours long.

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.
- As work completes and jobs change, we change our plans to accommodate.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Met with our reps with 44N to discuss the BCBS renewal. We will schedule a meeting with the union for next week to look at options. Overall the renewal looks good with a minimal increase.
- Started a report for the county commission related to the OPEB liabilities. Putting a presentation together for the July or August meeting.
- Looking at survey documents and legal description for Dix Point Road. We have a quit claim deed to the road right of way. The surrounding land owners are open to the idea of making road repairs. We will need to schedule a public hearing in the future to discuss the acceptance of the roadway.
- Was able to attend a couple of continuing education webinars.
- The House has passed a couple of transportation related bills.
 - One will allow counties unlimited transfers from primary to local funds.
 - One is an asset management plan.Discussion ensued.
- Representative O'Mally introduced a bill on alternate contracting methods.
- Working with Whitefish Township in relationship to the Paradise Garage Site. The Attorney General has some interest in this property and is working with our attorney. Discussion ensued.
- We have preliminary information from our Pool Attorney regarding the accident involving truck 627 on Riverside Drive. We have received notice of intent to sue, with an initial settlement request of \$1.7M.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Loader Bid - Manager Laitinen expressed great gratitude to all of the companies who provided us with a bid on a wheel loader. Their effort in generating some really good pricing on this equipment is greatly appreciated.

Fabick Cat came in as the low bid at \$196,800.

At the start of the year, the approved capital outlay included the purchase of two loaders. With the executive orders in place and the economic uncertainty, it was decided to back off the purchase of the second one. The prices provided in the bids warrant a second thought on that decision as we may not see this

kind of pricing again and our current two loaders have more than 10,000 hours each on them.

Manager Laitinen recommended the board approve the purchase of the first loader from Fabick Cat for \$196,800 and a second loader (Komatsu) from Roland Machine on a 60 month lease option for \$199,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to do a cash purchase of the Fabick Cat loader and lease the Komatsu loader from Roland Machine.

MOTION CARRIED

B. COVID-19 update:

- Not a lot new.
- The UP is open with more of the state to open on June 12.
- City and MDOT are furloughing their employees one day a week for the summer. The employees will be eligible for a small portion (pro-rated to the number of days off) of the state's unemployment maximum. The employees have been instructed to apply for the Federal Unemployment supplement as well. We are waiting to hear more information on this.

C. Fuel/Credit Card Discussion: It has been requested that the CCRC issue a credit card to the area foremen in the outside garages to purchase fuel. Manager Laitinen presented some of the logistical components in need of addressing/resolution before this request could be granted. Two key pieces were the need for accurate record keeping and the need to acquire board approval prior to granting a line of credit to an employee. In light of the major ice storm in January, Commissioner Ormsbee recognized the need to ensure fuel sources for crews, and set a directive to look into payment options for the foremen to use in an emergency such as a power outage but did not want this to be used as a regular means of operation.

D. Completed Payroll Prior to Meeting discussion - Clerk Livermore requested a change in the process of approving payroll by the board. The change would involve the board approving payroll using the reports provided and the checks separated out and ready for the foremen prior to the start of the meeting. The board saw no issue in this request as they would continue to review and approve all pay reports, signing vouchers and the check to transfer funds. The checks would continue to be held and not released until the conclusion of the board meeting.

E. MDOT Engineer Reimbursement Request - Annually the board must sign the request to MDOT for reimbursement to road commissions who have a licensed engineer on staff.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to sign the request for reimbursement.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

County Commissioners Comments

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing at this time

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Gagnon complimented the on-line/virtual MSHA training and hope it is utilized in the future.

Chairman Timmer stated EGLE is reporting on salt infiltration into the water system and have established criteria for acceptable levels much lower than our neighboring states.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman