

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was duly held in their offices located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on March 27, 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 Mgr. Decker, Assistant Engineer Deatrick, Payroll Clerk Price, Foreman Pesola, Foreman Erickson, Foreman McConkey, Chief Mechanic Avery and Union President Hopper.

ABSENT: Clerk McDowell, Surveyor Wiggins

Manager Laitinen indicated that he needed to add the award of the house removal bid to the agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee that the Payroll in the amount of \$145,681.59 and Vouchers in the amount of \$61,423.01 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Ormsbee and **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 13, 2014 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jesse Knoll of Sugar Island reported that there are large cracks forming in the pavement on E.Shore Road and questioned why it is happening in some areas and not others. Manager Laitinen indicated that because of the extreme frost depths that we will see a lot of pavement cracking throughout the County this spring. He also indicated that the area's that have a deeper sand base will hold up better and show less frost damage.

Kinross Township Supervisor Moore indicated that shortly after discussing the sharp decrease in accidents on Gaines Highway that there was a rollover accident. He did not feel that it was due to poor road conditions. Mr. Moore reported that Senator Casperson is working on securing emergency funding for Townships/Cities to help with potential water main repairs due to extreme frost. The extent of the damage and repairs needed would not be known until we get further into

spring thaw. The potential is there for some significant flooding, water main and pipe damage. He asked if the Road Commission would like to jump on board with the Cities and Townships in appealing for emergency funding. Manager Laitinen indicated that a Bill was passed a couple weeks ago allocating 100 Million statewide to be distributed through the state formula as maintenance funds to Road Commissions. The Bill being worked on now is targeted more for Cities and Villages with underground utilities.

STAFF REPORTS

Foreman Pesola

- Crews are busy winging, blowing back banks and opening drains in preparation for spring thaw.
- Discussed how dedicated our crew was through the horrible wind storm on Saturday. Many worked very long shifts to keep the roads passable. He wanted to especially thank the Mechanic staff stating that not only are they excellent mechanics they are all great plow drivers as well.

Foreman Erickson

- His crews are also busy winging, blowing banks and dealing with water problems.
- Crew members have been hauling salt from the St. Ignace State garage for use on our roads.

Foreman McConkey

- Crews are winging, working to try and cut ice from roadways and general equipment maintenance.
- Indicated that there has been damage done to the roadways and ditches by snowmobilers and asked if it was possible to request some monies from the snowmobile association for repairs.

Office Manager Decker

- The Audit is complete and we need to schedule an Audit exit meeting. A tentative date of April 24th following the regular meeting was set.

Assistant Engineer Deatrick

- Attended the APAM Conference and meet with MDOT and others in the Industry. It was very worthwhile.
- The Federal Aid bridge approach paving project is complete and ready to submit.
- Reported on various other locations and project sites.

Chief Mechanic Avery

- Working on routine winter maintenance.
- Mr. Timmer asked about various blower options for cleaning out intersections. Discussion ensued.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS-None

MANAGERS REPORT

- Reported on the MCRSIP meeting attended in Escanaba. They are working on updating their employment policies to reflect the changing laws and holding training seminars.
- Attended the Bruce Township Annual Meeting and discussed upcoming summer projects.
- Additional discussion regarding the Emergency Funding Bill that was approved ensued.
- Reported on the upcoming April 15th meetings. Rural Task Force at 10am followed by the Sault Ste Marie and Kinross Small Urban area meetings.
- Frost Laws have been a source of constant discussion. Looking at next week depending on the temperatures and conditions over the weekend.
- Staffing levels were discussed. Soon winter temps will need to be laid off. Manager Laitinen indicated that we have 7 potential retirements a considerable amount of road repairs due to the heavy frost and several township road projects. He stated he would like the Board to consider authorizing him to fill six positions at various garages around the County.
- **MOTION** made by Commissioner Lajoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to authorize Manager Laitinen to fill the six positions at various locations around the County.
MOTION CARRIED

AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE GRAVEL BIDS

- Manager Laitinen reported that we are down to approximately 10,000 yards of crushed gravel. With the Township work and repair work ahead we need more gravel on hand. He requested authorization to take gravel bids. The estimated total cost of crushing will be approximately \$442,000
- **MOTION** made by Commissioner Lajoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to proceed with gravel crushing bids.
MOTION CARRIED
- Discussion ensued on how the Gravel bids are awarded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Policy for purchasing MERS service time.**

MOTION made by Commissioner Lajoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to Amend our policy for purchasing service time to match the 5 years that MERS allows.

MOTION CARRIED

- All full time employees are eligible to purchase time.

- **Award of House Removal Bid.**

One bid in the amount of \$110.00 was received. Manager Laitinen indicated that it would be in the best interest of the Road Commission to award the bid as submitted, which would relieve CCRC of the costs associated in demolishing and removal of the structure.

Commissioner Timmer commented that he wanted to be sure that it is done in compliance with all current laws and that the utilities are properly disabled.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner LaJoie **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ormsbee to accept the bid as received.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- **Application for Perry Ross to purchase service time.**

Manager Laitinen introduced the MERS resolution that is required for an individual to purchase service time.

MOTION made by Commissioner Ormsbee **SECONDED** by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the resolution and for Manager Laitinen to sign.

Roll Call: Commissioner Lajoie Yes
 Commissioner Ormsbee Yes
 Commissioner Timmer Yes

MOTION CARRIED

ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Ormsbee

- Commented on the exceptional job done by the crew during the storm on Saturday. He had a chance to ride along with a driver and commented how well the guy's communicated to each other and the great job done despite the conditions.

- Discussion ensued about the possibility of installing Bluetooth capabilities on the trucks to allow the use of hands-free cell phones for communication.

Commissioner LaJoie

- Stopped at the Rudyard garage, guy's doing a great job!

Commissioner Timmer

- Indicated that he has received feedback on how well the roads are maintained in Chippewa County compared to some others.
- Stated that we need to remind the guys to limit cell phone use since he has recently witnessed a couple of our drivers using them while underway.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jim Moore stated that some of the snow banks in Kinross are getting really high. He thanked the crew's for the good job they are doing.
- Jesse Knoll commented on the great job being done on Sugar Island.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Timmer adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Amy L Price
Deputy Clerk

Richard B. Timmer
Chairman

