

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Road Commission office at 800 W. Franklin Street, Iron River, Michigan.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Carl Sholander, Vice Chairman Joe Sabol, Members Ernest Schmidt, Charles Battan, Superintendent/Manager Doug Tomasoski, Office Manager/Clerk Darlene Anderson, and Attorney Mark Tousignant. Commissioner Dan Germic was absent.

Chairman Sholander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Added to the Agenda under New Business were Items D.—Parking Order, and E.—Employment Practices Insurance. Added to the Agenda under Old Business were Items A.—Five Year Plan, B.—GPS units in trucks, and C.—Radio tower bills.

It was motioned by Schmidt, supported by Battan, to approve the revised agenda.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Germic
Motion carried.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED To be approved were the minutes of the Audit and Regular meetings of December 13, 2011, the Budget Hearing of December 13, 2011, the Special Meeting of December 28, 2011, and the Reorganizational meeting of January 04, 2012.

It was motioned by Sabol, supported by Battan, to approve the aforementioned minutes as submitted.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Germic
Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED The disbursements to be approved included Payrolls of \$87,406.93; Prepaid Claims of \$22,808.27; Accounts Payables of \$225,857.76; for a total of \$336,072.96.

It was motioned by Schmidt, supported by Battan, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated January 10, 2012 covering the aforementioned disbursements.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Germic
Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Superintendent Tomasoski reported:

- Project applications for the next phase of Bates Amasa Road and Gibbs City Road will be going out next week.
- Truck specs are being updated.
- 2012 local road projects will have a spring bid letting deadline.
- Two interim bridge inspections have been completed.
- No update on Task Force balances has been received to date from the State. Tomasoski said he will go ahead and schedule a county Task Force meeting for either January 24 or 25.
- Lots of discussion going on regarding HB5125 and HB5126.
- Waiting for agreements with the County Board regarding Heritage Bike Path.
- February 9 and 10 is the winter Road Builders' meeting in Marquette.
- Tomasoski will be reviewing the new union contract this week.

DELEGATIONS Mansfield Township Supervisor Dick Dryjanski asked if/where the mower is working. Superintendent Tomasoski told Dryjanski the mower is on Rock Crusher Road today.

George Brunswick provided the board with information that he received from the VFW concerning a U.P. Michigan National Veterans Cemetery. The group is seeking 40 to 160 acres of donated property for a cemetery for veterans and their families. Brunswick asked the board to consider donating property for this worthwhile project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS There were no committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS

FIVE YEAR PLAN Commissioner Sholander reviewed the five year plan. Financial—increase MERS contributions and fund the long term retiree health insurance liability. Equipment—purchase five new trucks. Staffing—hire four full-time employees if the budget allows.

Sholander said he would like to see the plan discussed again at the July meeting.

GPS UNITS Commissioner Sholander said he would like to see GPS units installed in the trucks for safety reasons. Discussion took place. It was pointed out that the new 800 MHz radios have better reception throughout the county than the old system. No action was taken.

RADIO TOWER Commissioner Sholander asked why a monthly tower rental is still being paid to Iron River City when it's no longer needed for the new radios. Superintendent Tomasoski told him the road commission has a five year contract with the City of Iron River for use of the radio tower. Tomasoski said he has contacted the City to request a waiver of the terms of that contract. Sholander asked attorney Tousignant if he thinks the City will grant a waiver. Tousignant said as the City's attorney he is conflicted on the issue, but he assured Sholander that when the City receives the written request they will act on it.

NEW BUSINESS

APAM PAVING AWARD Superintendent Tomasoski advised the Board that Northeast Asphalt has received an award for the Bates Amasa Road project. Commissioner Sholander commended Northeast Asphalt and the road commission staff who worked on the project.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS It was motioned by Sabol, supported by Battan, to approve participation in the TV6 public service announcements at whatever level Superintendent Tomasoski chooses.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: Germic

Motion carried.

ROAD RESTRICTION POLICY Discussion took place regarding the current road restriction policy. Committee members Schmidt and Germic had met to discuss the matter and recommended that the policy be revised to include language stating, "No load for vehicles over five tons." Schmidt said the new language will make it easier for everyone to determine when a permit is required.

Discussion took place regarding the current \$35 permit fee and whether it should be increased. Superintendent Tomasoski told the board a public hearing would be required if they change the permit fee. Tomasoski said the actual cost for issuing permits is between \$45 and \$50, but he said the truckers have been very cooperative about paying the current \$35 and he didn't have any objection to leaving it as is.

It was motioned by Sabol, supported by Schmidt, to revise the current road restriction policy by adding language stating "No load for vehicles weighing over five tons."

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Germic
Motion carried.

PARKING ORDER Superintendent Tomasoski advised the board that he has received a notice from the Michigan State Police that a 1978 parking order on West Superior Avenue in the City of Crystal Falls is no longer valid because that portion of road is not under the jurisdiction of the road commission.

It was motioned by Sabol, supported by Battan, to approve rescinding the original 1978 parking order on West Superior Avenue.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Germic
Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE PRACTICES INSURANCE Commissioner Sholander brought up the subject of employee practices insurance and asked if that is something the road commission should have. Sholander said he is concerned about the security of parts and materials in both garages. He asked Superintendent Tomasoski to discuss the issue with both foremen to see if they feel it's needed. Commissioner Schmidt said Superintendent Tomasoski determines the caliber of the people hired and he does a good job of it. Schmidt said the part time employees are honest people and he doesn't think additional insurance is needed.

Commissioner Sabol agreed with Schmidt saying he didn't want the employees to think the board was suggesting they're dishonest. He said he didn't like the ideas of the insurance either.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS No comments.

At 9:30 a.m. with no further business to come before the board, it was motioned by Sabol, supported by Schmidt to adjourn the regular meeting.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Germic
Motion carried.

Carl Sholander, Chair

Darlene Anderson, Clerk