

KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Minutes

April 9, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at their offices in Mohawk, Michigan on April 9, 2009.

Present: Commissioners Bjorn, McEvers and Muljo

Guests: Randy Eckloff, Brian Sickler, Damien Waara, Natalie Mukka

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 P.M.

The minutes of the March 12, 2009 regular meeting and the April 1, 2009 special meeting were read and approved as read on a motion by Commissioner McEvers and support from Commissioner Muljo.

Vouchers #28191, #28192 and Master Vendor Voucher #4-2009 in the total amount of \$207,595.90 were audited by the Commissioners and the Master Vendor Voucher was signed. Commissioner McEvers moved to pay the bills. Commissioner Muljo supported the motion. The motion carried.

The financial statement was read, discussed and approved on a motion by Commissioner McEvers and support from Commissioner Muljo.

The Engineer informed the Board that the existing contract from 2007 with Mohawk Sand & Gravel has not been fulfilled yet due to the reduction in revenues, which has led to a reduction in maintenance and construction work. Approximately 2,200 tons remains for the 22A and 236 tons for the 23A. Mr. Sickler offered to extend the 2007 prices for the remainder of 2009 once these quantities have been used. The Board agreed to accept the contract extension. Bids will be sought for the 2010 construction season.

Mr. Waara and Ms. Mukka presented Met Life's 457 retirement plan to the Board as an additional plan for the employee's to select. They also discussed the employee's and retiree's current life insurance policy that has been in effect for several decades. Met Life was working on an upgrade for the current employee's which would fulfill a previous commitment made by the Board, with an increase from \$275/month to \$300/month for the entire group of current employees. The actuarial was not completed by the meeting date, however, a response and quote should be available next week. Ms. Mukka will contact the Engineer when the information is available. Commissioner McEvers motioned to allow the addition of the Met Life 457 retirement plan to be added for employee consideration. Commissioner Muljo supported the motion. The motion carried. A similar presentation will be scheduled for the employees in the near future.

The Engineer provided the Board with an overview of the tentative 2009 summer projects. These will include the Eagle Harbor Road culvert replacement (full length) and Gay-LacLaBelle crush and shape (1.0-1.5 miles). These two projects will be completed under the non-competitive bid, negotiated project format by our own forces using our State D funds. The Copper Harbor Scenic Overlook Park is also tentatively scheduled for this summer and fall. All of the projects have submitted to MDOT in Lansing for review and approval.

The Engineer informed the Board that the Employees' Association approved the latest contract offer from the special meeting on April 1, 2009. The agreement and wage table will be available for the Board to sign at the May meeting.

The Board reviewed and discussed the annual dust control program. While the costs continue to increase, the Board decided to continue with the current modified program of patchwork dust control, rejuvenating areas that can be, and grinding/grading areas with potholes. The maintenance foreman is to review all areas prior to dust control application.

The Great Lakes Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7th, in Baraga. Plans were made to attend.

The Annual Safety and Retirement Dinner has been set for Friday, May 8th, at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge for 6:00 P.M.

The Engineer and the Board discussed the hiring of summer college students and gardener. The Board decided to bring back 5 summer workers from last year. A sixth student, majoring in civil engineering, may be brought back for civil tech work and a data collection project. The summer help would receive the 2% wage increase.

The Engineer requested to go into closed session for a management employees' evaluation per MCL Section 15.268(a). The Board entered into closed session at 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner McEvers and supported by Commissioner Muljo. The Board came out of closed session at 8:20 p.m. on a motion Commissioner Muljo and supported by Commissioner McEvers. The management employees' are to receive the same compensation package as the employees. The Engineer declined his raise in exchange for advancing to the next vacation benchmark immediately, which was due to take effect on January 1, 2010. In the future, the Board will negotiate concurrently with the Employees' Association and the management employees.

Other items of routine business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Eric Bjorn, Chairman

Gregg M. Patrick, Engineer