

## KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Minutes

September 11, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at their offices in Mohawk, Michigan on September 11, 2014.

Present: Commissioners Waananen, Jaaskelainen & Karvonen

Guest: Don Piche, Terra Langham, Ken Rowe

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M

The minutes of the August 14, 2014 regular meeting was read and approved as read on a motion by Commissioner Karvonen and support from Commissioner Jaaskelainen.

Vouchers #28321, #28322 and Master Vendor Vouchers #19-2014 & 20-2014 in the total amount of \$221,433.23 were audited by the Commissioners and the Master Vendor Voucher was signed. Commissioner Karvonen moved to pay the bills. Commissioner Jaaskelainen supported the motion. The motion carried.

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

The Engineer presented the Board with the MDOT contracts for a centerline painting project using remaining Federal Surface Transportation Funds. Commissioner Jaaskelainen motioned to adopt a resolution approving the contracts and authorizing the Chairman to sign the contracts. Commissioner Karvonen supported the motion. The motion carried.

MERS Regional Manager Terra Langham gave the Board a brief presentation on the existing retirement plan as well as options for the future.

The Engineer informed the Board that the Mohawk-Gay Road paving project is complete. The Gratiot Lake Road guardrail safety project preliminary force account work and paving are completed. Guardrail installation should begin within the next week or two. The 2 remaining TWA's will be completed for MDOT on US41 and M26 over the next few weeks and summer maintenance activities will continue on the state trunklines until the end of September. Summer maintenance on county roads will continue based on immediate needs, priorities and available manpower.

The Engineer informed the Board of current staffing issues. The Board promoted Bryan Wagner from a temporary seasonal truck driver to full time truck driver to fill the vacant truck driver position. The Board authorized internally posting the head mechanic position. The Engineer informed the Board that the winter temporary seasonal employees were in place with the workers currently here and those returning from last year. The Board discussed the vacant assistant engineer/surveyor position and directed the Engineer to evaluate and compare the use of consultants versus filling the position.

The Engineer and Finance Director met with the health insurance representative, Fred Gaff, to discuss options for health insurance for the upcoming employee negotiations. The cost of the 2015 health insurance plan from current provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield, will be compared to other providers, specifically Consumers Mutual, and will be reported back to the Board at the October meeting.

The Engineer informed the Board of the potential upcoming due increase for the County Road Association of Michigan. The increases were discussed and approved by the CRA Board of Directors and sent out to the regional councils for discussion and approval. Commissioner Jaaskelainen motioned to accept and approve the projected fee increase. Commissioner Karvonen supported the motion. The motion carried.

Other items of routine business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

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Joseph Waananen, Chairman

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Gregg M. Patrick, Engineer