**Board Minutes**

**January 18, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Crawford County Board of Road Commissioners was held at their office at 500 Huron Street on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., Present: Commissioner Hanson, Commissioner Jones, Vice Chairman Summers, and Chairman Halstead. Absent: Commissioner Larson. Administrative staff present: Managing Director Donald Babcock and Clerk of the Board, Leann Neilson. Public Attending: Dorothy Frederick, County Commissioner.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and supported by Commissioner Hanson to approve and amended January 18, 2024, Crawford County Road Commission Agenda to include under Old Business Twin Bridge contract agreement review. Roll Call: Larson absent, Jones yea, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead, supported by Commissioner Jones to approve the January 4, 2024, Board Minutes with amendment to the font under Vice Chairman Summers and Commissioner Hansons comments. Roll Call: Larson absent, Jones yea, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable Voucher #8 in the amount of $176,087.96 was moved to pay by Chairman Halstead and supported by Vice Chairman Summers. Roll Call: Larson absent, Jones yea, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea. Motion Carried.

**Cash Flow:** None

**Accounts Receivables:** Managing Director Babcock will be attending a Restitution Hearing on 01/23/2024 for the Lozon collection case.

**Blade and Brine Report:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**: Commissioner Dorothy Frederick commended the road commission crew for their great job on the roads during the snowstorm. Commissioner Jones agreed and commended the crew.

**NEW BUSINESS**:

It was moved by Vice Chairman Summers and seconded by Commissioner Jones to extend the Beaver Removal Contract with North Point Fisheries Management, LLC for an additional year at the current bid price. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and seconded by Vice Chairman Summers to authorize Managing Director Babcock to advertise for bids for two (2) Tandem Axle Trucks. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and seconded by Vice Chairman Summers to authorize Managing Director Babcock to advertise for bids for Seasonal Requirements. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and seconded by Vice Chairman Summers to authorize Managing Director Babcock to advertise for bids for 25,000 ton of 23A Gravel to be produced in the Road Commission’s Ostrander Pit. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and seconded by Vice Chairman Summers to authorize Managing Director Babcock to advertise for bids for Dust Control. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and seconded by Vice Chairman Summers to authorize Managing Director Babcock to advertise for bids for Pavement Marking. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Chairman Halstead and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Road Millage ballot language as presented and forward it to Crawford County Commissioners for their review and approval. Roll Call: Larson absent, Halstead yea, Summers yea, Hanson yea, Jones yea. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  Review of Huron Pines Contractor Agreement documents, and discussion regarding a grant for the construction of Twin Bridge over North Branch AuSable River. Huron Pines will reimburse the Road Commission for costs associated with Design Engineering for the possible future bridge construction.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR COMMENTS:** Commissioner Larson continues to sticker “return to sender” on the biweekly board meeting packets that are mailed to him.

Managing Director Babcock asked the Boards permission to purchase two message boards and a lowboy trailer from MiDeal rather than advertising for bids. Board agreed.

County Road 612 bridge over the AuSable River remains closed for the winter. The contractor, Macarthur Construction, refuses to respond to emails and has failed to provide a plan of action for commencing work through the winter months. Managing Director Babcock met with MDOT last week to discuss how to proceed with the situation.

Before the bad weather set in the road crew was able to get started on some tree and brush clearing on the Pioneer Road project.

South Branch Township will be holding a budget meeting this week. The road commission should know soon which road projects they would like to do next year.

The road commission is still looking to hire Mechanics. An account has been set up on “Indeed” for advertising and to reach a broader audience.

**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Larson – Absent.

Commissioner Summers – Inquired about the road commissions use of brine on the roads. The use of brine is in part dependent on temperature.

Commissioner Hanson – Inquired about an update on Portage Creek dam. County Commissioners are heading that project. Commissioner Frederick noted that a grant was applied for but was denied so the County Commissioners are looking for other funding sources.

Commissioner Hanson reported a complaint from Frederic residents regarding not getting sand on their roads during the storm last week. Managing Director Babcock reported that the grader worked in Frederic during the storm and is not capable of spreading material. Further discussion ensued regarding what materials are used during different weather conditions.

Commissioner Jones – None

Chairman Halstead – Inquired about how the road commission assigns truck drivers to routes. Managing Director Babcock explained that factors such as a driver’s experience, skill, and confidence are considered as well as the equipment they are assigned to and its capabilities.

There being no further business to come before the Board Chairman Halstead declared the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

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**Chairman, Ryan Halstead Leann Neilson, Clerk of the Board**