

KEWENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Minutes

July 9, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at their offices in Mohawk, Michigan on July 9, 2008.

Present: Commissioners Tuoriniemi, Bjorn and McEvers

Guests: Randy Eckloff, Ray Chase, Dennis Rich, Mike Gagnon, Mike McMahon, Rick Nye

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 P.M.

The minutes of the June 11, 2008 regular meeting were read and approved as read on a motion by Commissioner Bjorn and support from Commissioner McEvers.

Vouchers #28171, #28172 and Master Vendor Voucher #8-2008 in the total amount of \$182176.20 were audited by the Commissioners and the Master Vendor Voucher was signed. Commissioner Bjorn moved to pay the bills. Commissioner McEvers supported the motion. The motion carried.

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

The Keweenaw ATV Club presented the Board their proposed plan for county wide ATV/snowmobile trail system. The proposed trail, on the old railroad grade, passed through Road Commission property behind Veteran's Park in Ahmeek, the Cliff Mine property and the Central property. The Board reviewed and discussed the request for an annual trail permit through these properties. Commissioner McEvers motioned to approve the trail permit and authorize the chairman to sign the document as presented. Commissioner Bjorn supported the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Rick Nye and the Board discussed if there were any options for allowing the sale of the stamp sand by the ton or cubic yard. At this time, the best option would be to get an Attorney General's opinion on the matter. The Board reiterated its position that they are in favor of progressing with the process and are supportive the sale of material. However, they must follow the statutes and past Attorney Generals' opinions that govern road commissions, which do not allow a road commission to enter into commerce, i.e., the sale of materials. Mr. Nye would continue to explore these and other options.

The Engineer informed the Board that the CRAM Negotiating Committee may recommend that Road Commissions enter into a 1 year maintenance contract with MDOT instead of the 5 year contract as previously recommended. This is due to the potential breach of contract by MDOT in regard to not requesting additional funds from the legislature to cover the winter budget adjustment and not adjusting the non winter budget. A meeting will be held soon with MDOT to discuss the matter.

The Great Lakes Council will be meeting Thursday, July 10 at the Baraga Lakeside Inn at 9:30 A.M. Plans were made to attend.

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The Engineer informed the Board that the Northern Association of Road Commissions will be holding their annual meeting at Boyne Falls on September 3 – 5, 2008. The annual CRASIF meeting will also be held in conjunction with this event.

The Engineer gave the Board an update on this summer's construction and maintenance projects. The Gratiot River Road project, Phase II, is on hold until 2009 at the request of Glen Tolksdorf. The Eagle Harbor Road will be repaired by crushing and shaping the worst segments, with chip sealing as soon as possible based on the availability and delivery schedule of the asphalt emulsion, CRS-2. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and Sedar Bay Roads preventative maintenance chip seals will follow immediately after the Eagle Harbor Road is completed. The Five Mile Point Road Local Jobs Today project should be getting started next week.

The Engineer presented the 2008 MERS Actuarial and its findings. According to MERS, the Road Commission is in a satisfactory position at 79% funded, with a goal to reach 80% to 100% funded over the next 10 years.

The Engineer informed the Board that approximately 8,300 cubic yards, or a little more than 2 seasons worth of winter ice control sand has been processed at the New Allouez Pit by low bidder R. H. Huhtala Aggregate Inc. for \$22,500.00. This is roughly equal to the cost of fuel that it would take to haul one season's worth of winter ice control sand from our Gay Sands Pit.

The Board authorized the Engineer to purchase a laptop computer for administrative and field use.

Other items of routine business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

JOEL TUORINIEMI, CHAIRMAN

GREGG M. PATRICK, ENGINEER