

KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Minutes

May 12, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at their offices in Mohawk, Michigan on May 12, 2011.

Present: Commissioners McEvers, Muljo and Waananen

Guest: Ken Rowe, Robert Rinne, Don Piche

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

The minutes of the April 14, 2011 regular meeting were read and approved as read on a motion by Commissioner Muljo and support from Commissioner Waananen.

Vouchers #28241, #28242 and Master Vendor Voucher #8-2011 in the total amount of \$271,173.29 were audited by the Commissioners and the Master Vendor Voucher was signed. Commissioner Muljo moved to pay the bills. Commissioner Waananen supported the motion. The motion carried.

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

A petition for the abandonment of a portion of the Gratiot Location Road was presented by Mr. Robert Rinne. Mr. Rinne requested the abandonment as he is the only property owner for the last 150 feet of the road and this will allow some flexibility in locating his house and septic tank/drain field. The Board reviewed and discussed the petition and with all the proper paperwork and signatures submitted, Commissioner Waananen motioned to adopt a resolution to abandon the portion of Gratiot Location Road lying in Section 23, Township 57 North, Range 32 West, Allouez Township, Keweenaw County, Michigan. Commissioner Muljo supported the motion. The motion carried. The abandonment will be advertised and filed with the County Clerk.

Ken Rowe, Road Commission Director of Finance, presented the annual report to the Board and provided a summary of its contents.

The 2010-2011 winter maintenance costs were presented to the Board. The total winter maintenance cost was \$717,500.00, with costs to complete winter maintenance up \$78,000 over last year. This can be attributed to the number of weekend snow events which required crews to be out on overtime, approximately 280 hours more than the previous year. The Board directed the Engineer to reevaluate all winter maintenance options again for next year.

The Engineer presented the Board with the annual Equipment and Vehicle Reports along with the future needs. In general, the fleet is showing its age, with increasing maintenance costs this year across the Board. The Board recognized the need for new tandem trucks and motor graders but budgetary concerns prevent the purchase of any new equipment at this time. The Board discussed purchasing a used cracksealing unit for roadway preventative maintenance use.

The U.P. Road Builder's summer meeting will be June 14-16, in Escanaba. Plans were made to attend.

The MCRCSIP annual meeting is scheduled for July 21-22 in Mt. Pleasant. Commissioner Waananen motioned to designate the Engineer as the voting delegate for Keweenaw County and the Director of Finance designated as the alternate voting delegate. Commissioner Muljo supported the motion. The motion carried.

The Board discussed the dust control program. While it was agreed that the 2011 dust control program would be the same as last year, the continuance of the program beyond this year is to be determined. The cost of the 2010 dust control program was approximately \$40,000.00. Due to the cost of the program and reduced funding levels, the Board is considering providing the service in a similar way as Houghton County and most other counties in the State, where the citizens pay Road Commission for the dust treatment in front of the own homes if they choose to take part in the program. Other alternatives include approaching Townships with the option of providing a chip seal surface for existing aggregate road surfaces that meet the base requirements to support a chip seal without a severe spring break up. The Foreman anticipated the roads would be prepared in the next week or two and dust oil application would be completed started before Memorial Day and completed by June 2nd, weather and work load dependent.

The Engineer informed the Board that the winter sand haul would take place as soon as possible. Gay stamp sand would be used this year to combine with the remaining material from last year and New Allouez pit sand. This is the most economical solution for this year given the fuel prices and the amounts of sand remaining in the stockpiles at the shop.

The Assistant Engineer/Surveyor informed the Board that the total station survey instrument has stopped working. It is approximately 23 years old with parts no longer available. A replacement is approximately \$4,000.00. The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Waananen with support from Commissioner Muljo, authorized the collection and evaluation of price quotes, and the purchase of a new total station survey instrument in the \$4,000.00 price range.

Other items of routine business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Mark McEvers, Chairman

Gregg M. Patrick, Engineer