

KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Minutes

August 13, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at their offices in Mohawk, Michigan on August 13, 2009.

Present: Commissioners Bjorn and McEvers

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

The minutes of the July 8, 2009 regular meeting were read and approved as read on a motion by Commissioner McEvers and support from Commissioner Bjorn.

Vouchers #28199, #28200 and Master Vendor Voucher #9-2009 in the total amount of \$229,998.30 were audited by the Commissioners and the Master Vendor Voucher was signed. Commissioner McEvers moved to pay the bills. Commissioner Bjorn supported the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner McEvers motioned to approve the minutes, pay the bills and accept the financial statement as presented. Commissioner Bjorn supported the motion. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed the final request for a plat change from John and Nancy Wakeman of Eagle Harbor. Having previously approved the preliminary plat change, the Board and the Drain Commissioner approved the final plat change, signed the necessary documents, and forwarded them to Eagle Harbor Township for further processing.

The Engineer presented a report received from Green Sand Corporation which provided a brief update on the permitting process, U.S. EPA site visit, and timetable for the 100 ton pilot test to be completed this fall.

The Engineer informed the Board that the Central Sands East Branch of the Eagle River bridge has been installed according to Road Commission standards and the covering project would begin within the next two weeks. The Operation and Maintenance Plan was reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Engineer informed the Board that the Gay-Lac LaBelle Road crush, shape and chip seal project was completed and the Eagle Harbor Road culvert replacement project was under way, with completion expected to be during the week of August 31. The crack sealing for county primary roads was also underway and additional roads would be added due to efficiency and cost.

The MERS Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 15-17, 2009 in Grand Rapids.

The CRASIF Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2009 in Boyne Falls in conjunction with the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions Annual Meeting. Commissioner Muljo motioned to designate the Engineer to act as the voting delegate for the CRASIF meeting. Commissioner McEvers supported the motion. The motion carried.

The Engineer updated the Board on the Great Sand Bay roadside park and off road parking area. MDOT has received the funding to design and construct the dune stabilization project and the parking and beach improvements. However, no state funds are available for the land acquisition from Mr. William Clark to enhance the off road parking. The property would have to be purchased by local government units. The Board reviewed the Road Commission finances and the current inability to hire new employees to replace the last 5 retirees', to purchase new dump trucks and equipment, and to adequately maintain and upgrade the road system. The Board found that it would not be in the Road Commissions best interests to contribute to the purchase of land for roadside park property on a state highway at this time.

The Engineer discussed the Eagle Harbor Township water system improvement project with the Board and the impact it will have on the streets. While the streets are in a fragile state, they are still adequate and have some life remaining. The water system construction will damage most of the streets beyond repair. The Board agreed with sending a letter to Traverse Engineering Services of Hancock, MI outlining our concerns and to work with the water system consultant to reach a reasonable solution in replacing the streets.

The Board directed to the Engineer to contact MDOT through written correspondence in regard to their concern over the overall safety of the motoring public with respect to the diminishing summer maintenance funds. This has led to complaints about the lack of visibility at intersections due to no roadside brushing and dead tree removal, with trees or limbs falling on the roadway with every wind above 20 mph. Also, the Board wanted to specifically mention the curve north the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, where two severe accidents occurred this summer. Realigning the curve would be the best case scenario while additional signing and chevrons may be acceptable.

Other items of routine business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Eric Bjorn, Chairman

Gregg M. Patrick, Engineer