

KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Minutes

March 12, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at their offices in Mohawk, Michigan on March 12, 2009.

Present: Commissioners Bjorn, McEvers and Muljo

Guests: Randy Eckloff, Dudley Martin, Frank Kastelic, Nick Popko, Donna Jaaskelainen

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 P.M.

The minutes of the February 10, 2009 regular meeting were read and approved as read on a motion by Commissioner McEvers and support from Commissioner Muljo.

Vouchers #28189, #28190 and Master Vendor Voucher #3-2009 in the total amount of \$156,201.77 were audited by the Commissioners and the Master Vendor Voucher was signed. Commissioner McEvers moved to pay the bills. Commissioner Muljo supported the motion. The motion carried.

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

GreenSand Corporation's corporate documents have been filed with the State of Michigan. A final agreement, completed by Attorney Donna Jaaskelainen, was available for the Chairman and GreenSand president to sign to allow GreenSand Corporation to purchase stamp sand from the KCRC owned Gay Sands. The agreement will also include a guaranty clause or a separate guaranty document, to be prepared by Ms. Jaaskelainen and signed by both parties at a later date. Mr. Popko gave a brief overview of the proposed business and its onsite activities as well as the usage of the final product. Sherman Township representatives were in attendance to ask a few questions and request a presentation from GreenSand Corporation at an upcoming Township meeting. GreenSand agreed to attend the April meeting.

The Engineer informed the Board of a request from Keweenaw Trail Services for construction inspection services on proposed trail improvements on government property. The Board discussed the matter and will allow the Road Commission Engineer and Assistant Engineer to provide such services only on Road Commission property, due to liability and ACT 51 issues.

Commissioner McEvers motioned to have the Chairman sign the 2008 Act 51 Annual Report upon completion. Commissioner Muljo supported the motion. The motion carried.

The Engineer gave the Board an update of the issues discussed at the CRAM Annual Meeting held in Lansing last week, including the position of the legislature and governor addressing switching fuel tax to the wholesale level. Also, the federal economic stimulus funding was discussed at great length with more information to follow through online webinars.

The Engineer informed the Board of the annual C.R.A.S.I.F. safety seminar in Baraga, Tuesday April 14th. Plans were made for the safety committee to attend.

The Engineer informed the Board that Houghton Township was again interested in constructing an outhouse/changing room type structure at the Eagle River Beach. The structure would be similar to the one at Bete de Gris Beach. The Road Commission would provide up to one third of the cost to complete the project, estimated at \$9,000 to \$10,000, with the remaining coming from Houghton Township and Keweenaw County. The Road Commission would supply a total cash and soft match of \$3,300 for excavation, construction and installation of the structure. Based on a meeting with MDEQ last summer, a location has been determined that does not require a MDEQ critical dune permit.

The Board discussed their recent inquiries with other road commissioners at the U.P. Road Builders winter meeting about ongoing employee negotiations throughout the U.P. and existing and proposed contracts. Various compensation options were discussed as well as long term planning for the number of employees needed to provide acceptable levels of summer and winter maintenance. The Board directed the Engineer and the Finance Director to analyze a 19 month offer of a __% raise with the same health insurance effective April 1st, including taking into account upcoming retirements, part time workers, non-competitive bid force account work this summer using federal funding and expiring retiree's health benefits. The Board authorized the Engineer to present the offer to the Employees' Association if it fell within the budgeted compensation amount.

The Engineer informed the Board of the need to purchase a computer for the Assistant Engineer. The current computer is approximately 12 years old and needs to be upgraded in order to run the more sophisticated software and web-based tools now required for road commissions. A quote from Computer Mechanix was obtained from Baraga County Road Commission who are also in need of an upgrade. The Board authorized the Engineer, on a motion by Commissioner McEvers and support from Commissioner Muljo, to purchase a new computer for the Assistant Engineer that is expandable and capable of meeting our needs for the next 5 years, not to exceed \$4,700.00. Also discussed were future upgrades in survey equipment, such as a robotic total station, which will be useful as manpower levels are reduced due to reduced funding. Several U.P. road commissions and consulting firms have been using them with great results.

The Board discussed the Road Commissioners' Seminar in Grayling, April 19th – 21st. Plans were made to attend.

Other items of routine business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Eric Bjorn, Chairman

Gregg M. Patrick, Engineer