

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Chippewa County Road Commissioners was held in their offices located at 3949 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI on January 4, 2024.

Clerk Livermore called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney..

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Superintendent Erickson.

GUEST PRESENT: Trout Lake Township Clerk David Hillman, Whitefish Township Supervisor Edson Forrester.

Clerk Livermore opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Commissioner Sprague nominates Commissioner Gagnon to serve as Chairman

Second call for nominations for Chairman - None

Third call for nominations for Chairman - None

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Gagnon as Chairman.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Livermore asked for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Gagnon nominates Commissioner Moser to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Second call for nominations for Vice-Chairman - None

Third call for nominations for Vice-Chairman - None

MOTION by Chairman Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Moser as Vice-Chairman.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Livermore turned the meeting over to Chairman Gagnon.

Manager Laitinen requested a Whitefish Township/Paradise Property be added to the agenda under New Business 12A.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$185,678.77 and Vouchers in the amount of \$426,356.74 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 21, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the Public Hearing Minutes from December 27, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- MTF was up \$60K but due to lack of winter weather, State Maintenance reimbursement was down \$100K.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- Summer is over but equipment has been out working on brushing the new property at Whitehouse Landing Road.

Foreman Rye

- Brushhog on Drummond Island.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Working to close out year end payroll. The goal is to have W2s ready to distribute by the middle of January.
- Shadowing Office Manager Decker, taking notes and learning to close out and report year end.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Working on maintenance of equipment not typically in use this time of year.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Working on a few projects.
- Sent out the Purchase Order to Western Star for the new trucks scheduled for late 2024 / early 2025 delivery.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- With no winter weather we are experiencing a significant decline in revenue typically generated through the state maintenance contract. For the first time in several years the majority of the crew was able to spend the holidays with their families.
- Received a FOIA request, as did most if not all 83 counties, from an Eaton County resident regarding "non-motorized expenditures." Wendy Hardt from the Pool is assisting with the response. The information should be found in the ACT51 Report as well as posted on the web-site.
- Took Operator Mikolowski and met with the International Bridge Authority to participate in a training on plow operations for snow removal on the bridge. This is a collaborative effort with the Bridge Authority to ensure in a major event, the bridge will stay open.
- Straits Area Council meeting for February has been moved from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday (February 13, 2024).
- The brushhog has been at the new property in Paradise in preparation to test dig and map the new property.
- Received a good telephone call from the EPA regarding the emissions "Derate" breakdowns experienced by plow trucks. The agency is working with the manufacturers to provide programming that will allow for an extension of time from four (4) hours to 40 hours before the truck will require service.
- Starting to work on annual transportation permits.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Whitefish Township / Former site of Paradise Garage - Whitefish Township has contacted the Road Commission regarding acquiring ownership of the property adjacent to the township hall. Whitefish Township Supervisor discussed development ideas for the site. Manager Laitinen requested consent to enter into negotiations with the township for this parcel, acknowledging should ownership be transferred to the township,

the intent of the Road Commission is that the parcel should not be sold after and a profit gained by the township. The transfer would be intended to provide the public with greater access to Lake Superior.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to grant Manager Laitinen consent to enter discussion with the township and to allow EGLE to enter property to perform a baseline environmental assessment.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Trout Lake Township Clerk Hillman mentioned AEG is continuing to install fiber.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

With no further business to come before the Board, thank you to everyone and stay safe. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman