

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 March 14, 2024.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Foreman Rye, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Commissioner Sprague, Engineer Boileau, Union President Cheney, Clerk Livermore

GUEST PRESENT: Jim Traynor; Chippewa County Commissioner, Barry Davis; Rudyard Township Supervisor, Mackinac Trail Road resident; Dean Besteman on behalf of Union President Cheney.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to accept the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$195,694.87 and Vouchers in the amount of \$609,050.35 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon for the corrected Payroll amount from 2/29/24. Original amount presented was short \$27,205.12.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from February 29, 2024 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Working with Bobbie on year end as well as monthly reports.
- Audit is scheduled for the first week of April.

Superintendent Erickson

- Doing some maintenance on the gravel roads and some cleaning out of the yard around the building.

Foreman Goodman

- With the weather we are plowing one week, grading roads the next week.
- Been cleaning up brush.

Foreman Rye

- Goetzville is brush hogging for DeTour and then will be moving to Spring Bay and then will be taking care of surrounding roads.
- Pickford is working on 14 Mile Rd. off of M-129 with excavator and dozer clearing back trees.
- Grinder is working west off of Bound Rd.

Engineer Boileau

- No report.

Clerk Christensen

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Cheney

- No report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Doing some spring cleaning.
- Superintendent Erickson was able to provide some guys to start cleaning up out behind the Sault garage.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Working on a little bit winter stuff and a little bit of summer as we can.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Met with MDOT regarding the budget surplus and upcoming jobs and timelines. Job list for MDOT include catch basin repair in Detour, culvert on M-48, west end shoulder gravel. With the weather it does look like we may be able to start early.
- Working with Fleet Manager Donajkowski, regarding mowing equipment for the state trunkline.
- MCRCSIP has sent a letter regarding an Upper Peninsula and an at-large position open on their board. If there is any interest in

serving on that board, please let Manager Laitinen or Clerk Livermore know.

- Received a complaint from a resident on Sugar Island. It was investigated and found to have no validity in the complaint.
- Received late state salt fill at the Kinross barn last week. Goetzville is also slated to get a salt fill in the next couple weeks as well.
- Working with EGLE staff regarding the Paradise site as well as Whitefish Township for a conveyance for a Brownfield grant.
- Many of the Road Commissions including us have had issues with local contractors not fulfilling their obligations within the year the job is let. Engineer Boileau and Manager Laitinen plan on attending a meeting at Marquette Township Hall with U.P. contractors and Road Commissions to talk about this issue.
- John Deere has extended an invitation for two employees to go to their plant in Iowa the week of April 20th. Fleet Manager Donajkowski and Mechanic Eavou will be attending on behalf of CCRC.
- We received an offer for additional mowing work from the DNR, which would have been a two-year contract. We have declined it due to our county and state trunkline obligations with mowing.
- Engineer Boileau and Manager Laitinen attended Oxcart training which handles our online permitting. Currently the right of way permits are the only permits still utilizing the paper format. Other counties have moved their right of way permits online. The platform is nice and user friendly. We are hoping for a May 1st rollout to have all permits online. Oxcart also allows us to collect \$1,000 bond via credit cards and less cash being handled directly online.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Brine policy requested by Sugar Island Township - The current brine policy states that CCRC reimburses 1/3 the cost of brine up to \$1,000. Brine has gone up over the years. Manager Laitinen also had Whitefish Township inquire about upping the reimbursement amount. Manager Laitinen and Office Manager Decker will look at the numbers and will report the finding and provide more information at the board meeting, Thursday, March 28, 2024.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to table this motion item until Thursday, March 28, 2024 to allow time for review.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- Clock on the Chippewa County Court House will be rebuilt at the cost of approximately \$30,000.
- State has ordered a quiet room so that attorneys can speak with their clients in a confidential room. That will be completed in the near future.
- Courthouse has some facia that has to be maintained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Supervisor Davis asked about the status on the Chubb Creek Bridge project and if a date has been set. At this time the grant is being held up with no start date available at this time. Supervisor Davis also inquired about the intersection in Rudyard. We do not have a start date on the intersection. There has been conversation with the contractor and they are aware we were not pleased that the project was not completed last year. As soon as we get a schedule, we will forward the information.
- Mackinac Trail resident asked why Mackinac Trail was now classified as a "class A" roadway. Manager Laitinen explained how funding is used and what we are required to do with roadways when certain funding is obtained. The resident has concern with the foundation of his home and the GFL trucks that are driving by his home and potentially damaging his foundation. Weight and excessive speed are felt to be an issue. Manager Laitinen explained how speed limits are factored and suggested he contact the Michigan State Police if he feels that speed is a factor. Unfortunately, the Road Commission cannot limit the trucks from utilizing the roadway.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 A.M.

Abby Christensen
Deputy Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman