

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 December 7, 2023.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Foreman Goodman, Engineer Boileau, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk Livermore, Union President Cheney.

ABSENT: Clerk Christensen.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, and Trout Lake Trustee David Hillman.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$215,245.07 and Vouchers in the amount of \$393,282.80 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from November 22, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Starting year end process.
- Neebish Island fuel pump installation should finish up next week and then will be ready for final inspection.

Superintendent Erickson

- Winter maintenance.
- Equipment operators are back from hunting - plows are on and ready to go.
- Mild weather has allowed for some garage maintenance and cold patch work.
- The two new hires are fitting in well with the crew.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as Sault - geared up for winter and getting good at making hydraulic hoses.

Foreman Rye

- Same as Sault and Rudyard.

Engineer Boileau

- All four Federal Aid projects have been reviewed by MDOT and returned for final comment.

Clerk Christensen

- No Report.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Mike Philips with MCRCSIP was here last week. Due to weather, the winter operations safety meeting was canceled but did site visits with Mike. He had a few minor findings for us to address, but overall good report.
- Worked on finalizing new truck specs with Chief Mechanic. Manager Laitinen added the new truck purchases will be a change from Peterbilt to Western Star as the desired model from Peterbilt has been discontinued. For 2024, we have eight (8) build spots reserved with Western Star in anticipation of approval at the up-coming Public Hearing.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- With winter operations underway, moving the heavy equipment through for maintenance. Lots of work.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Hired a seasonal employee for the empty position in Goetzville.
- Had a great vacation. Thank you to the crew and staff for taking care of things during absence.
- This week attended CRA Board Meeting, committee meetings, and Annual Legal Symposium. CRA will be working to restructure bylaws, including the election of board members and the cycles in which they serve. The Negotiating Committee will start the initial sessions during the summer/fall 2024.
- Received a new maintenance advisory from MDOT regarding deer carcasses in the ROW.
- Received notice from CRASIF that their administrator, Jim deSpelder has retired.

- MDOT provided notification that 2025 Federal Aid buy-out has been suspended due to lack of funding.
- Michigan legislature is at a standstill until May due to resignations caused by the mayoral election resulting in an even split of the seats.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Drummond Island Resort request for abandonment of part of South Halfway Road beginning ¼ mile north of E. Maxton Road between sections 19 and 20, ending at E. Tourist Road. Manager Laitinen presented **RESOLUTION 2023-16** from item f.) of the agenda with recommendation for the abandonment, noting that the Resort's sole ownership of the section of road does not require the Road Commission to obtain the signatures of residents or schedule a Public Hearing.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to pass RESOLUTION 2023-16 and grant the abandonment request.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by ROLL CALL VOTE

- B.) Schedule Budget Public Hearing.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to schedule the Public Hearing meeting for Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule - Clerk Livermore presented the board with a tentative list of meeting dates for 2024 with suggested moved dates due to existing conflicts.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the meeting schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

- D.) OPEB Transfer \$200K - Office Manager Decker informed the board that the planned 3rd quarter transfer was not done due to cash flow concerns. Those concerns have been resolved in the 4th quarter. These transfers help to keep the reimbursable fringe rate related to the MDOT contract in a favorable position and recommended the 4th quarter transfer be done.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the OPEB transfer as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

E.) RESOLUTION 2023-15 - MDOT Contract #23-5505 - GLSHS Museum Parking Lot. Engineer Boileau reminded the board that this authorization was given at the start of the project and informed them that the electronic signature requirement has changed.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to pass RESOLUTION 2023-15.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by ROLL CALL VOTE

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor indicated the county commission is still working on an agreement for home health and nurses for Hospice.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Office Manager Decker presented Manager Laitinen with a cake in recognition of his birthday this week. Manager Laitinen commented, "I'm halfway to 100 years."
- Manager Laitinen reported being contacted by a reporter from CMU regarding the Paradise property. In the conversation, he determined the reporter was up to speed on a conversation between Manager Laitinen and the township supervisor.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon acknowledged receiving several compliments on our work during the last snow event and wished the crew to "stay safe." With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman