

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 June 20, 2024.

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 Johnston, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Garage Foreman Johnson

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Union President Eavou, Engineer Tech Tuori - Manager Laitinen noted the absence is due to the beginning of paving of the Rudyard 5-way intersection.

GUEST PRESENT: Chippewa County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

Manager Laitinen requested item d. be removed from the agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$181,901.76 and Vouchers in the amount of \$471,722.97 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 June 6, 2024 and place them of file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Working on IT upgrades to the network to allow for greater capacity of remote work from the field.
- Working with auditor from Anderson Tackman on items from Treasury, including a corrective action plan regarding the three year trend in decrease fund balance.

Superintendent Erickson

- All Good.

Foreman Johnston

- Finishing up the shoulder project on Mackinac Trail.
- Mowing on county roads finishing up and getting ready to start state mowing.
- Doing some maintenance to gravel roads in Dafter Township.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Garage Foreman Johnson

- Helping finish up Mackinac Trail.
- Dragging Pickford roads.
- Getting ready to start culvert projects.

Foreman Rye

- Finishing up State Mowing.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Engineer Tech Tuori

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Attended UP Road Builders and visited the Schoolcraft County Road Commission facility to observe how they use the software for inventory.

Union President Eavou

- No Report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Mike Philips from MCRCSIP was here to do a site visit to all facilities. Escorted him to the garages and observed his evaluations.
- Attended UP Road Builders. It was a great networking opportunity. During conversation with one of the vendors, discovered a possible tractor to add to the fleet.
- Visited Schoolcraft County Road Commission and learned about their maintenance program. Looking at ways to implement some of their processes.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended UP Road Builders and lead the Finance & HR Committee in conversations regarding SB169 and the requirement for reporting new hires to the Collective Bargaining Unit Representative.

Wendy Hardt was available to answer questions and was invited to provide more clarification on the 1st Amendment Audit requirements.

- MCRCSIP workshop and annual meeting is Wednesday, July 24th & July 25th in Mount Pleasant. CRA Committee meetings will be the morning of the 24th.
- Due to an oversight in timing caused by the Juneteenth holiday, the payroll processing cut-off was missed and resulted in direct deposits being delayed until Friday morning. A message was sent by mass text to the staff on Wednesday morning. Clerk Livermore apologized for the oversight.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Screen plant moved to Kinross. Helped get it up and running and create a better process for transporting it.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- UP Road Builders conference went well. Attendance was down. Sessions were good. Engineer Boileau presented a session on our work zone / traffic control. The presentation went well and was well received.
- Continuing to meet with the Collective Bargaining Unit on the Health Insurance Renewal. Next meeting will be Monday morning.
- Met with Superior Township to discuss some potential future road work. Bill Munsell is the new supervisor. The meeting went well.
- At the last Straits Area Council meeting, a motion was presented to cut the number of meetings per year down from four (4) quarterly meetings to three meetings. This was voted down via an email vote.
- Working with DNR, EGLE, and the snowmobile association to create a snowmobile trail to Barbeau.
- Paving and milling work has begun at the 5-way intersection in Rudyard.
- A commercial traffic study will be performed on the M-28 to Gains Highway corridor. The study will cost approximately \$16,000 and Dafter Township has agreed to share in the cost of this study.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. MCRCSIP Ballots - Manager Laitinen presented the UP Ballot with one letter of candidacy and the At Large Ballot with four letters of candidacy.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon, on behalf of the Chippewa County Road Commission, to cast their votes for Doug Mills of Baraga for the UP seat and Charles Moser of CCRC for the At Large seat on the MCRCSIP Board.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Survey Equipment Bid - Manager Laitinen presented information regarding old survey equipment that was put for sale under sealed bid with a minimum bid requirement of \$5,000. After the new equipment was purchased, this equipment has been untouched for more than a year. Only one bid was received. Rob Laitinen bid \$5,200 for the equipment.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the bid for the survey equipment to Rob Laitinen.

MOTION CARRIED

C. John Deere Used Mower Tractor - Manager Laitinen informed the board that at the UP Road Builders meeting it was discovered that prior state maintenance contractor was selling equipment previously used for state mowing. The price was negotiated to \$55K for a 6140D John Deere. Manager Laitinen and Office Manager Decker recommended purchase of the machine indicating the hourly rate applicable to the equipment on the state trunkline would offset a large portion of the cost.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve purchase of the tractor.

MOTION CARRIED

D. REMOVED

E. MERS Delegates - The annual MERS conference in October requires action by the board to appoint an officer delegate and alternate and approve the travel costs for a delegate of the Collective Bargaining Units choice by secret ballot. Clerk Livermore clarified the official chosen by the union must be submitted by the July 18th board meeting so the early-bird discount can be used.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to appoint Clerk Livermore as the officer delegate, either Engineer Boileau or Clerk Christensen as the alternate, depending on availability, and authorize the travel expenses of the delegate of the union's choosing.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

None

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore has some major health concerns. A quiet room has been added to the courthouse. Still working with the nurses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Clerk Livermore reported Sugar Island Garage Foreman Dan Pifer will be retiring from the Road Commission on Thursday, June 27, 2024.
- Clerk Christensen and Chief Mechanic Marsh reported on the county wide tire collection. Next week tires will be collected at the Kinross Township Carpenter shop.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

NONE

CLOSED SESSION FOR STRATEGY DISCUSSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE NEGOTIATION CONNECTED WITH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to enter Closed Session under MCL15.267 Sec. 8(1)(c) - negotiation strategy related to the negotiation of collective bargaining agreement.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to re-enter open session.

MOTION CARRIED

Resumed open session at 9:00 a.m.
No decisions were made during the Closed Session meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to grant Manager Laitinen authorization to negotiate the cost share for healthcare and wages with the Collective Bargaining Unit.

MOTION CARRIED

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Gagnon wished everyone "stay safe". The meeting adjourned at 9:02 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jerrey Gagnon
Chairman