

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 28, 2024.

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

PRESENT: Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Union President Cheney, Clerk Livermore, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Chairman Gagnon, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Chief Mechanic Marsh

GUEST PRESENT: Chippewa County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Trout Lake Trustee Dave Hillman, Chippewa County Resident John Sawruk.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$212,591.98 and Vouchers in the amount of \$57,190.21 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of meeting minutes from March 14, 2024 was tabled until April 11, 2024 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- County resident John Sawruk requested the Road Commission consider adopting city roads serving as primary arteries as primary county roads and be the agency to service those primary arteries, noting the Road Commission keeps its roadways in good condition. Manager Laitinen responded that this is possible to do under the conditions of ACT51, but laid out some of the major hurdles to doing this, including reassignment of the appropriated funds the city currently receives for road improvements. A move like this would require consideration and cooperation from the city.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- No Report.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- Back to winter maintenance.

Foreman Rye

- Return of winter conditions requiring winter maintenance.

Engineer Boileau

- Received the chipseal bid. The bid amount is approximately 30-35% higher than anticipated. Need time to look at the details.
- Getting ready for pre-construction meetings.

Clerk Christensen

- CRASIF Safety Summit next week.
- Planning the annual Safety Meeting for May 2, 2024. More details to come.
- M-SHA training scheduled for May 14, 2024.

Union President Cheney

- Got to participate in Career Day at Rudyard School with the 7th and 8th graders. Received positive feedback from the community and would like the opportunity to do again.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Attended the Highway Conference and Road Show. Got an opportunity to meet with some of our vendors.
- Finalized the sweeper rental for the season.
- The tractor and mower for the state contract will be here soon.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended the Highway Conference and Road Show. There was a good agenda and got to meet with several of our Legislators.
- After the last meeting, there was a potentially dangerous interaction with individuals attempting to move a house trailer without proper equipment and required permitting. The motor carrier officer got involved and charges for the operator are pending as well a numerous citations were issued to the company responsible for the move. We will be pursuing remuneration for the costs to repair the damages caused to Soo Line Road by negligence and disregard for proper permitting.
- This week we have resumed the weekly management team meetings. We will meet on Wednesday mornings.
- Dealing with some confusion caused by EGLE regarding a bridge on 18 Mile Road that is part of a private road.

- Friday is the last day for the temporary employee in Goetzville. April 5th will be the end of night shift for the season. The crews will all be on days beginning Monday, April 8th.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Brine policy - at the last meeting Sugar Island Township requested the Road Commission reconsider the reimbursement parameters for brine application to gravel roads. The Township requested the Road Commission consider a 50/50 reimbursement arrangement. Manager Laitinen presented the historical cost of reimbursement with possible projected cost increases if the cost were to be split as high as 50/50, noting this would encourage greater brine application by all townships with an unsustainable cost increase to the Road Commission. He proposed a policy to the board where by the Road Commission would reimburse townships for brine application, with submission of copies of all invoices related to purchase and application, at the lesser of 1/3 of the cost or \$2,000 per township per year. This would increase the Road Commission's possible cost exposer from \$16,000 to \$32,0000 annually.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the policy as recommended by Manager Laitinen.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Township Road Agreement - Bruce Township - Crackseal and Chipseal Scenic Drive between Six and Seven Mile Roads and Lower Haylake Road between 9 Mile and 12 Mile Roads. Estimated township cost \$255,000. Manager Laitinen requested the agreement be signed so it is in place after the chipseal bid is reviewed and approved at a later date.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Township Road Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Chipseal Bid Award - Manager Laitinen requested this item be tabled until the next meeting, noting the reason for the 30% increase needs to be looked at as well as the reason for receiving only one bid. The board agreed to revisit this at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported he has submitted a funding request to Senator DaMoose's office as well as Sentator Friske's office for the Mackinac Trail project. He is waiting to hear more. He also reported there is an issue on Neebish Island resulting from the reduction in scheduled evening ferry trips.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Charles Moser
Vice-Chairman