

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 May 23, 2024.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Boileau, Clerk Christensen, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Union President Eavou, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Engineer Tech. Tuori

ABSENT: Office Manager Decker, Clerk Livermore

GUEST PRESENT: Chippewa County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis. Scott Johnston

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$181,237.08 and Vouchers in the amount of \$306,720.15 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 May 9, 2024 and place them of file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis expressed his appreciating regarding the care that has been given to Hantz Rd.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- No Report

Superintendent Erickson

- Maintaining gravel roads
- Patching black tops as needed
- Brining has started in the townships

Foreman Goodman

- M-28 Shoulder work, a good portion of M-123 has already been completed.

Foreman Rye

- Same as the Soo.

Engineer Boileau

- Mackinac Trail will begin on Monday, June 3, 2024 between 9 Mile Rd and 10 Mile Rd. Postcards have been sent out to residents between 9 and 10 Mile Rd on Mackinac trail regarding the construction on Mackinac Trail.
- Rudyard intersection will be getting pavement markings and overlay, along with LED stop sign. This is tentatively scheduled for the first two weeks of June with Payne & Dolan.
- Charlotte River Bridge replacement at Mackinac Trail tentatively scheduled to begin after July 4, 2024. Schedule from P&D still pending.
- Chubb Creek construction is scheduled for 2025.
- Information regarding culverts, signage is being gathered for asset management.

Clerk Christensen

- MSHA is completed, everyone should have received their certificates.
- Attended Finance and Human Resource meeting in Bay City at the beginning of the week. Many great topics were discussed.

Union President Eavou

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Took ownership of a new tag trailer
- Took ownership of a new conveyor, the old conveyor will be going out to bid.
- Working on evacuation plans

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- No Report

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Normal maintenance of trucks

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Received an invitation from Bay Mills to meet First Lady Jill Biden. Engineer Boileau, Engineer Tech Tuori and myself attended.
- Agenda has been finalized for the UP Road Builders in June 2024.
- We received a notice from our insurance company that 3rd party contractor will be coming and going to all our buildings to appraise them for new values on them.
- Emulsion quotes have gone up over last year. Last year they came in at \$1.65 this year it came in at \$3.05/Gal.
- A staffing decision has been made promoting Operator Scott Johnston to Regional Foreman over the Sault and Sugar Island Garages in preparation for Superintendent Ericksons retirement in

July 2024. Foreman Johnston will begin working side by side with Superintend Erickson until his retirement.

- Operator Marc Johnson has also been promoted to Regional Foreman in preparation for Regional Foreman Ryes retirement in September.
- We have multiple positions open and will begin the interview process once the postings in each garage come down.
- Had an initial meeting with 44North who administers our health insurance. There has been a 24% increase to the health insurance. The cap under PA152 only raised 4% leaving a large increase to employee shares. We have instructed 44North to quote some more reasonable options as well as a self-funded option.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Award Fuel & Oil Bid -Manager Laitien recommended that we go with Autore Oil for all garages except Brimley and Eckerman and utilize Shute Oil for those two locations.
- B. Oil Bid - Northern Energy and Texas Refinery is recommended based on the bids received. Safety Kleen and Rowley's also bid, a letter of equivalency was not received which disqualified them.
- C. Local Paving - For projects on Mackinac Trail and Soo Line, Payne & Dolan came in first with \$517,205, Bacco with a second.
- D. Blade Award - St. Regis, Winter Equipment and Truck & Trailer submitted bids. It is recommended that we award the bid to Truck & Trailer.
- E. Cloverland Easement - Cloverland Electric is in need of an easement for installation of overhead lighting at the curve near 6 mile and Homestead Rd. intersection over land that is owned by the Commission. The lighting was requested by Sugar Isl. Twp.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve bids as well as authorize Manager Laitinen to sign on behalf of the Road Commission pertaining to the easement.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported June 7, 2024 the Neebish Island schedule will be back to normal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Superintendent Erickson, congratulated Regional Foreman Johnston and Regional Foreman Johnson on their newly promoted positions.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Nothing to report

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) - strategy and negotiation connected with 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 8:40 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 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 8:45 A.M.

Abby Christensen
Deputy Clerk for the Board

Jerrey Gagnon
Chairman