

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 November 9, 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, Clerk Christensen, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk Livermore, Union President Cheney.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

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

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 \$172,213.82 and Vouchers in the amount of \$489,519.21 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 October 26, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- M&C Water has gone out of business. Contracted with Culligan as a drinking water source. The drinking water for the facility gets tested quarterly and is safe to drink but contains calcium. Had a reverse osmosis filtration system installed in the garage to filter out excess calcium and other elements. A smaller but similar unit will be installed in the office where the old fountain was located. Bottled water will be delivered to the office for the outside garages to pick up.
- Trying out a new source for snow stakes. Gator Bar had a product run that did not meet their specifications. A quantity has been purchased to test as an alternate snow stake.

Superintendent Erickson

- Finishing up snow staking.
- Gravel work as weather allows.
- Salt delivered to Kinross.

Foreman Goodman

- Gravels roads are in rough shape due to wet/muddy weather. Working on them as weather and time allows.
- Plowing snow.
- Continuing work on Tahqua Trail.

Foreman Rye

- Switching from Summer to Winter operations.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Several payroll envelopes have safety reimbursement checks in the envelope. Please remind the staff to cash these checks before year end.
- Peninsula Fiber is going to be installing fiber network access to the Soo Office to provide more reliable phone and internet service.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Shop catching up.
- Working on capital outlay plans with crews.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Busy time. Got five new employees onboarded and set up in the payroll and fuel systems.
- Gearing up for year-end processing.
- Attended the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions Clerks' meeting. Both current software providers were in attendance to answer questions and present updates.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Tough week. Were notified early in the week that Marc Nelson, Goetzville employee, had passed away unexpectedly over the weekend and then shortly after received notification that retiree, Mike Honkanen had also passed.

- Working on capital outlay plans.
- Attended CRA event in Mt. Pleasant as part of a panel to discuss using a regularly scheduled meeting of the managers as a communication tool.
- Met with Bay Mills Tribe to discuss expectations of their contractor building the new building as it relates to heavy hauling during frost restrictions. From the conversation, most of their heavy hauling is complete.
- Last of the salt is coming. Should all be received early next week.
- Night operations have begun.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Purchase of Welder Pick-up - Fleet Manager Donajkowski described the condition of the welder's current truck. A used, fully out-fitted truck became available for sale this week. The mechanics looked it over and deemed the truck to be in excellent condition. An offer \$4,000 under asking price was accepted by the seller.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the purchase of a used pick-up truck for the welder at a price of \$25,235.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported Hospice is still a hot topic. They are looking for a way to keep it going but the biggest issue is a budgetary concern with the Health Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Township Supervisor reported the paving millage passed during the election.
- Union President Cheney reported the family of Marc Nelson reached out to show appreciation for the decision to close the Road Commission early to allow the staff to attend the funeral. The support of our staff was appreciate by the family.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished the crew to "stay safe." With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman