

**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 6, 2024.

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

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

**ABSENT:** none

**GUEST PRESENT:** Chippewa 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 Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$181,507.57 and Vouchers in the amount of \$469,238.29 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 23, 2024 and place them of file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Working on scheduling final audit meeting and with the clerks to finish up the month.

Superintendent Erickson

- Thanked the crews from multiple garages for working well together on multiple projects across the county. Everything ran smooth and they all did a great job.
- As of Monday, Foreman Johnston took over the foreman responsibilities. The overlap in anticipation of retirement is a great way to provide training for a smooth transition.

Foreman Goodman

- Thanked Superintendent Erickson and Foreman Rye for providing help with additional trucks to haul gravel for the M-28 MDOT project. The crew spread approximately 5,000 tons of 23A gravel (almost 20 miles). They all did an excellent job.
- Thanked retiree Brian Mills for joining the crew this winter as a seasonal temp to cover short-staffing issues caused by injury and illness.

Foreman Johnston

- The shoulder project on Mackinac Trail is going flawlessly and the crews who don't usually work together directly are doing a great job.

Foreman Rye

- Nothing new to report.

Engineer Boileau

- With the help of the Engineer Tech, we are pulling ahead on upcoming Federal Aid and local projects and are starting to look ahead at 2025/2026 projects.
- Took a moment to recognize and express appreciation for the crews on M-28. The MDOT work zone audit team accidentally ended up in our work zone. They were highly complimentary of our crew, the work zone, and the work being done. They specifically noted:
  - PPE being worn by the entire crew.
  - Everyone appeared to be working in a safety conscious mindset.
  - The entire operation looked very professional.

It was noted that MDOT has a high standard and to receive compliments like these from their audit team is a high compliment. Great Job!

Engineer Tech Tuori

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk Christensen

- Working with Kinross Township and the City to coordinate the logistics of the Tire Grant that was awarded.

Union President Eavou

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- We have a full mechanic crew back. Looking to make some headway on catching up.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- The warranty purchases for the Dodge Pick-ups is paying off but the turn-around is slow.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Ad for hiring operators is posted publicly.
- Continuing discussions with BCBS and 44N regarding the health insurance renewal. Have not received a viable alternative from them. Need to schedule another meeting with the union.
- Receiving many compliments from MDOT regarding our operations.
- Working on final preparations for UP Road Builders meeting next week.
- There is an issue with the Drummond Island road abandonment done earlier this year. It has been referred to the Pool for legal opinion. More to come as it becomes available.
- Received the call for Trustee nominations from CRASIF as well as a dividend payment in the amount of \$23,241.69.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. MDOT Engineering reimbursement - MDOT Outreach provides up to \$10,000 reimbursement to road commissions who hire a licensed engineer.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize the board to sign the request and have it submitted to MDOT.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- B. A Special Meeting has been scheduled for June 20, 2024, immediately following the regular board meeting (approximately at 8:45 a.m.). The purpose of the meeting is to have Anderson Tackman present the financial audit findings.

- C. Excavator Purchase - Manager Laitinen discussed replacement of #235 Case Excavator. The purchase is a 5-year lease purchase for a Caterpillar 325 at \$368,971

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**County Commissioners Comments**

- Commissioner Traynor reported the clock has been rebuilt on the courthouse.
- Working with the nurses to negotiate a deal with the hospital.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Foreman Rye reported Marc Johnson will start to train and transition as his replacement in July.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Moser commented that the M-129 shoulder work from last year still looks really good. Fleet Manager Donajkowski commented on the work the mechanics put into the used shoulder machine to make it a valuable piece of equipment.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Gagnon wished everyone "stay safe". The meeting adjourned at 8:29 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Jerrey Gagnon  
Chairman