

**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 January 18, 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 Goodman, Engineer Boileau, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Union President Cheney.

**ABSENT:**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$232,064.33 and Vouchers in the amount of \$759,595.25 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 January 4, 2024 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Working on Year End with Clerk Livermore.
- Audit will begin the first week of April.

Superintendent Erickson

- Winter maintenance & equipment maintenance.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as Sault.

Foreman Rye

- Nothing new to report.

Engineer Boileau

- Working on getting the chip-seal package out for next year.
- Worked with Office Manager Decker and Clerk Livermore on the accounting for requiring cash bonds from utility contractors doing work in the Right-of-Way (ROW). Due to an increase in the number of instances where there was a failure to establish proper signage for work zones and general complaints from the public, beginning this year, the road commission will require a \$25K bond from all contractors who will work in the ROW. Road Commission time associated with addressing issues caused by the contractors will be charged against the bond before any or all of the bond is refunded to the contractor upon completion of work. Discussion ensued.

Clerk Christensen

- Met with Sam SanMiguel from CRASIF. Conducted inspections of the Sault, Rudyard, and Brimley garages. A report should arrive this week of findings.
- Wrapping up 2023.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Working on projects.
- Purchased two new trailers to be delivered around May. Traded two old trailers in as part of this transaction.
- Met with Britespan regarding information and pricing for sand sheds for Sugar Island and Drummond Island. Projected estimated cost \$200-\$350K.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Finished 455C report for Fringe Benefit costs. Ready to submit to State.
- W2s are completed and distributed. Created informational instruction tool and shared with other clerks through the UP.
- Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 but pay date will remain February 1.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Challenging - old equipment seems more reliable than the newer equipment. Just enough snow to keep busy repairing snow equipment.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Returned from Lansing today. Attended quarterly board meetings for Wetland and JATC. Wetland Board approved the funds to acquire a section of land in the Huron River Watershed.
- EGLE to release proposed new stream mitigation rules soon for public comment.
- Started planning for the annual UP Road Builders Association Legislative Banquet during the time of the Highway Conference. The Radison has changed to the Double Tree and the remodel looks good. Have secured the hotel and venue for the dinner.
- The Association, in cooperation with legal counsel, is proposing changes to their bylaws. One of the changes proposed is to the term of board members, whereby all board members would be balloted and serve two-year terms. This would eliminate the one-year annual appointments. Another proposal is the elimination of the General Policy Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A.) RESOLUTION 2024-01 - MDOT Performance Resolution "Annual Application and Permit for Miscellaneous Operations within State Highway Right of Way.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to pass RESOLUTION 2024-01.

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

- B.) RESOLUTION 2024-02 - Conditional Support of Easement Access

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to pass RESOLUTION 2024-02.

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- County Commissioner Traynor reported there will be a meeting next week regarding the Home Health Care contract and Hospice. He brought up an issue of ashes being spread by a resident on a road in his area.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Engineer Boileau began a discussion regarding options for vegetation control after crews do mechanical brush control in an effort to maintain efficiency and effectiveness. Discussion ensued.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sprague reported anticipated absence from the February 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> meetings.

Chairman Gagnon wished the crew "stay safe." With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Jeremy Gagnon  
Chairman