

**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 April 28, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Boileau, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Union President Cheney, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

**ABSENT:** Clerk Christensen

**GUEST PRESENT:** Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Trout Lake Township Supervisor Dave Hillman, Sugar Island Township Supervisor Mark Eitrem, Sugar Island Resident Tim Moher, Sugar Island Resident Fred Newton

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$176,076.85 and Vouchers in the amount of \$69,666.74 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 14, 2022 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sugar Island resident Tim Moher addressed the board and Manager Laitinen regarding ditch and drainage issues on his property on North Short Road. Action to dig out the ditch was requested.

Sugar Island resident Fred Newton voiced support of the ditch concern, noting the water flows onto the property rather than following the ditch.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Working on the fuel system with IT.
- Working with actuary and 44N to complete the OPEB report.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy grading gravel roads.
- Patching sink holes and pot holes.

- Pulling sanders off equipment.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as Sault.

Foreman Rye

- Same as Rudyard.

Engineer Boileau

- Next week is traffic control training.
- Gearing up for construction
  - Industrial Park Drive
  - Bridge projects over Gogomain
  - Six mile at Waiska River
  - Local paving Hulbert

Clerk Christensen

- No Report.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Reasonable Suspicion training is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21. The plan is to require District Foremen, Garage Foremen, and administrative staff to attend. For some it will be a refresher for some of our new garage foremen it will be new information. An invitation has been extended to neighboring counties to attend.
- Attached to paychecks are AFLAC form. The rep will be here on Wednesday, May 25 for anyone who wants to make an appointment in the morning or walk in to see her in the afternoon. The form attached to the checks must be completed and returned to Bobbie by the end of May. If employees have a plan and are not making changes or are opting out of participation, there is a section of the form to complete. EVERYONE must return a completed form.
- Due to a tight schedule, the next payroll (pay date May 12th) will be processed early. All time cards must be completed and approved by end of day on Thursday, May 5th. Any missing time cards for this period will be added to the May 26th pay date. A reminder notice has been provided for all garages to be posted near the time keeping computers.
- Part of UP Road Builders includes the auction items. The clerks would like to put together one or more auction items together in CCRC name. We are looking for support from staff and commissioners for items.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Busy in the shop. It's been a long winter and the equipment shows it. Lots to do.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Planning and scheduling UP Road Builders. Agenda is coming together with guest speakers from US Army Corps of Engineers and Enbridge and a boat tour to follow.
- Met with the contractor for the State mowing. Little Man Services was awarded the contract and has all paperwork in order and equipment leases lined up.
- Coordinating with MDOT for some maintenance projects, including Fair Road / M-80 water drainage. Upcoming tree cutting restrictions will make this challenging.
- Have a follow-up meeting with the group looking at state funded disaster relief.
- Next week we have been invited to an event at Bahweting School to recognize a group of students earning second place in the Future Cities competition.
- Received the schedule from the City on the Three Mile project. It starts on June 6 and will run from the round-a-bout to M-129.
- Hoping to see House Bill 6023, introduced by Representative DaMoose get some traction and pass. This proposal is the removal of royalties on gravel removed from state land.
- Thaw is progressing but with the lack of warm temperatures it is slow. Still holding on the lifting of restrictions.
- Received the health care insurance renewal information from 44N. Will work to schedule a discussion with the union soon.
- Will be sending a letter to the union to open negotiations for the next contract.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A.) RESOLUTION 2022-11 - MDOT Contract #22-5062 Lakeshore Drive.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Engineer Boileau to sign the MDOT Contract #22-5062.

**MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

B.) Cooperative Forest Road Agreement - this is the master agreement with USDA Forrest Service. It is a 5 year agreement to cooperatively maintain the roads in this system.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the agreement.

**MOTION CARRIED**

C.) Fuel & Oil Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the bids with the board.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the oil bid to Northern Energy with low bid and continue the study using the Texas Refinery products provided by John Smart.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the fuel bid to Autore/Shute oil, noting the rack price locations used in the bids.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Township Supervisor Barry Davis asked for clarification on royalties and gravel. Manager Laitinen gave some examples on sand and gravel.
- Sugar Island Township Supervisor Mark Eitrem reiterated a concern for deteriorating asphalt in the area noted by Fred Newton. Thanked the crew for response to paving S.W Shore Road and looking forward to Village Road Work. Also thanked the Road Commission for the cooperation and support to get broadband delivered to the island. Discussion ensued.
- Tim Moher asked for Manager Laitinen's assurance on ditch work in front of his property asking the Road Commission to dig the ditch deeper and re-route the water. Manager Laitinen addressed the situation indicating several times this area has been looked at and the water on the property is in a low area and seeking a route to the river and is not the responsibility of the Road Commission to redirect water on personal property.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Chairman Timmer thanked everyone and asked they stay safe.

**MOTION CARRIED**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard Timmer  
Chairman