

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 13, 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, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Trout Lake Trustee Dave Hillman, 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 \$256,172.54 and Vouchers in the amount of \$545,528.87 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 30, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Audit to start next week with Anderson Tackman.
- March Financials will be emailed by tomorrow.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report - excused due to water issues in the county.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report - excused due to water issues in the county.

Foreman Rye

- Maintenance following winter storm then quick thaw causing floods.

Engineer Boileau - Report presented by Clerk Livermore

- In Lansing working with Legislature on work zone safety initiatives and then on vacation for a week starting Friday.
- JN215465 (County Wide Paving Markings) has been accepted by MDOT and waiting for approval to obligate. Anticipating a June letting.
- Request area foreman to have their 2023 project lists prioritized and ready to share at the April 27 meeting.
- Preparing preconstruction meetings and activities for Shipwreck Museum parking. Payne and Dolan will be primary contractor.

Clerk Christensen

- Working with Fleet Manager to transition the building safety items to him.
- Working on the final details for the Spring Safety Meeting next week.

Union President Cheney

- No Report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Meeting with foremen, making rounds to the garages for introductions.
- Looking for quotes on overhead doors for new door openings in the south wall Soo Shop.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Fielding several calls from the community with complaints regarding the condition of the gravel roads and requesting maintenance. Passing the information to foremen as it comes.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Superintendent Erickson and Foreman Goodman are not in attendance to address the county wide water issues caused by the rapid thaw this week. Six Mile Road is closed at the Rail Road Trestle due to significant water over the road. There are also issues in Dafter and along the Charlotte River. Due to heavy saturation, there is very little we can do right now but crews are out doing what we can.
- Last night the night crew fixed a few driveways. This is not work typically performed by the Road Commission, but due to the rapid thaw water had completely washed out a few driveways,

leaving residents trapped. The residents were requested to have their driveway pipes replaced/repaired this year.

- MDOT night coverage was extended by a week and will end on Friday, April 14th.
- Registered for one of 4 spots at the Transportation Research Board, sponsored by MDOT. The meeting will take place in Iowa. **MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Laitinen to attend the meeting in Iowa. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Had conversations with Senator McBroom and Representative Prestin on local issues. Upon their visit to the area, offered use of the conference room for them to hold some office hours while here.
- Continuing to work with the labor attorney on the MERS issue for one of our prior employees.
- Getting ready for the first site meeting with the Whitefish Point stake holders.
- The disagreement with the City of Sault Ste. Marie regarding the share of the election costs the city manager agreed to pay has been resolved. The Deputy City Manager has waived the remaining \$2,900 of cost. The agreement was made as the City is the recipient of approximately \$1.5M over the term of the millage.
- Last week the time spent at the manager meeting was used to map out the up-coming work for the season. Very busy season is ahead.
- Four ten hour days starts next week.
- Thank you to everyone - foremen, operators, mechanics, welder, sign crew - EVERYONE for all the work this winter. Several employees have worked in excess of 20 or more days without a day off and this commitment is appreciated and noticed. Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Commissioner Signatures on Central Savings Signature cards - New signature cards have been made for all accounts, removing Richard Timmer and adding Commissioner Sprague.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize the signatures of all signature cards.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- The Hospital appraisal has been ordered

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Trout Lake Township Trustee David Hillman requested contact information regarding the rail crossing at H-40. Manager Laitinen will find it and send it.
- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis and Trout Lake Trustee Hillman inquired about brine for this year. Manager Laitinen explained the township/road commission cost share will remain the same. The proposed Administrative Rule regarding restrictions has been stopped for this year. We encouraged them to stay in contact with their MTA representative about the brine issue.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Sprague commented on the road work planning meeting that he attended with the managers. It was good to see the planning involved in setting up and coordinating the work.

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman