

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 March 30, 2023.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Clerk Livermore, Union President Cheney.

ABSENT: Commissioner Sprague, Foreman Rye, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Christensen.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Kinross Township Supervisor Jim Moore, Juston Curry and Eric Flowers from Southeastern Disaster Relief Services, and Kinross Trustee Rick Bernhardt.

Clerk Livermore requested item 10a. be stricken until a meeting where all board members are present. Manager Laitinen requested a strike item 14 as it was an item covered in the March 15th meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to accept the changes to the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$196,376.63 and Vouchers in the amount of \$52,479.64 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 15, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Moore, Kinross Township Supervisor commented on the condition of Thompson Road, requesting it to be looked at.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Audit scheduled to start April 24th. The auditor is coming from the Anderson Tackman Marquette Office. Will file an extension for ACT 51 as it cannot be completed until after the audit is complete.
- Year-end financials have been provided.

- MTF was up this month 2% over this time last year.

Superintendent Erickson

- Grading roads and digging ditches as weather allows.
- The conference this week with Hector Hernandez was really good.

Foreman Goodman

- Gravel patching and blading.
- Plowing snow.
- Cold-patching as weather allows.

Foreman Rye

- No report.

Engineer Boileau

- Received two bids for the county paving package. Payne & Dolan was the low bidder at \$3.3M. The paving package includes:
 - o Crush and shape with new asphalt overlay - Maple Road from 10 Mile to 11 Mile
 - o Crush and shape with new asphalt overlay - 11 Mile Road from Railroad Crossing to Mackinac Trail
 - o Mill and Overlay - 5-way Intersection in Rudyard
 - o Fine Grade and new asphalt Rudyard Garage Parking Lot
 - o Crush and shape with new asphalt overlay - Penningotn Road South from Gogomain Road to M-48
 - o Crush and shape with new asphalt overlay - Fairview Road from Gogomain Road to M-48
 - o Crush and shape with new asphalt overlay - 5 ¼ Mile Road from Shunk Road to Ridge Road
 - o Crush and shape with new asphalt overlay - Radar Road from 3 Mile Road to Burton's Pit

Clerk Christensen

- No Report.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended the Highway Conference in Lansing. While there took the opportunity to visit the Capitol and Senate Building with the Mackinac County Road Commission. Met with Senator Friske and Senator Damoose's Chief of Staff, Dakota Baker. Dakota and I know each other from Lake State. Had a conversation with Senator Damoose at the UP Road Builders Legislative Dinner as well as a conversation with Senator McBroom over dinner the next night. Both conversations were regarding the need for road commission vehicles to be designated "emergency vehicle."

- While at the Highway Conference attended the meetings for the Education Committee, F&HR Committee, and Software Committee. A survey will be coming from CRA looking for education wants from the membership for 2023. F&HR is set for the May conference in Traverse City. Software Committee is starting to gather more details on the software.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Welcomed and introduced Fleet & Facilities Manager, Mike Donajkowski.
- Frost season is wrapping up. Requests for permits is slowing.
- The Highway Conference went well. The UP Banquet had 100% attendance from the Legislators. Met with Representative Prestin. Attended two CRA meetings. Bob Linbeck was elected to take Jim Iwanicki's position on the CRA Board.
- While in Lansing, met with MERS and a labor attorney regarding some retiree benefit issues.
- Received notice that Category D funds can run concurrent with federal aid funds as a direct grant and can be saved for up to three years to put towards larger projects.
- Bay Mills has requested the ROW at Bay Mart be looked at with a request to give a part of the ROW back as it appears to be wasted space that could enlarge the foot print in that area.
- Photos regarding on-going issues with the Neebish Island Ferry captain were provided for the board. These photos were provided with a complaint filed with the US Coast Guard.
- Received a plaque in appreciation for the volunteer work provided by some of our crew and use of the Road Commission Grader for the the I-500.
- This week the traffic control signals (Automatic Flagging Assistance Device - AFAD) were ordered. This device will take the place of a man in the traffic lane. The first place of use will be on M-129 from M-80 to M-48. It will take some time for the public to learn what this is and we will be doing some education via our Facebook page prior to construction season.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Kinross Township - Rick Bernhardt, a trustee for Kinross Township presented information to the board regarding the construction of temporary housing from M80 to Griffin for the workforce brought into the area by the Lock Project in the Soo. The company responsible for construction wants to fence off the construction area and the 75' ROW cuts into the area where the temporary fence would go. The request is to allow the fence to be constructed inside of the 75'. The area inside the ROW will have no construction and no permanent

fixtures installed. Manager Laitinen suggested a detailed request for a permit within the ROW be submitted and so long as no permanent structures would be installed, did not see any problem with issuing a permit for this.

- B.) Commissioner Signatures on Title Sheet JN215465 - County Wide Pavement Markings - approximately 85 primary road miles of markings - \$250,000 federal aid with no local match.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to authorize the signatures of Title Sheet JN215465.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Resolutions supporting submissions for FY2026 Local Bridge Program – state to cover 95% with 5% local match:
 - i. **Res 2023-02:** Structure 1636 Mackinac Tr over Pine River – REMOVE AND REPLACE
 - ii. **Res 2023-03:** Structure 1619 North Hulbert Road over Tahquamenon River – REHAB
 - iii. **Res 2023-04, 2023-05, 2023-06, 2023-07:** Str 1629, 1630, 1635, 1640 “Pickford Package” – PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE
 - iv. **Res 2023-08 and 2023-09:** Str 1621 and 1633 “Rudyard Package” – PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approved Resolutions 2023-02 through Resolutions 2023-09.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLLCALL VOTE

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- The Hospital is waiting on appraisal and Sheriff building is still on hold.
- Complimented the crew for doing a great job on the roads this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jim Moore, Kinross Township Supervisor asked about a stop light at Shortcut Road and Gaines Highway intersection. There is no power at that intersection, making any type of traffic light not possible.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman