

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 5, 2023.

Clerk Livermore called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen.

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

GUEST PRESENT: Trout Lake Township Clerk David Hillman, County Commissioner Jim Traynor, and Fred Gulick resident of Pickford.

Clerk Livermore opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the office of Chairman.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to nominate Commissioner Gagnon as Chairman.

Second call for nominations for Chairman.

Third call for nominations for Chairman.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Gagnon as Chairman.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Livermore asked for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to nominate Commissioner Moser as Vice-Chairman.

Second call for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Third call for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

MOTION by Commissioner Gagnon **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Moser as Vice-Chairman.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Livermore turned the meeting over to Chairman Gagnon.

Chairman Gagnon accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$253,185.51 and Vouchers in the amount of

\$219,265.43 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 December 22, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the Public Hearing Minutes from December 22, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from December 22, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Wiring for the new fuel systems in Goetzville and Drummond Island should be completed next week. With all inspections completed on time, the new systems should be on-line by the end of January.
- MTF was \$6K less this month as compared to this time last year.
- Working on year end reporting.

Superintendent Erickson

- Complimented the crews on all their good work through the Christmas storm. Everyone, including mechanics, were available and came in when we needed them.
- Dealing with a lot of truck issues, mostly emissions issues. Discussion ensued.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report

Foreman Rye

- Same as the Sault Garage. Guys worked well through the storm.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Working to tie up end of year and start a new year.

Union President Cheney

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Working to close out year end payroll. The goal is to have W2s ready to distribute by the middle of January.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Echo the sentiments for the crew during the storm over the holiday. It is greatly appreciated when a storm like that comes we didn't experience any issues getting people into work. Thank you.
- Attended the County Commission meeting and made an official request for the Road Commission application for ARPA funds be reconsidered. Because Road Commissions are not recognized as their own unit of government, we were not eligible to apply directly for funds to cover lost revenue, leaving an ask to our County Commission for funds as our only option. Our request was again declined. The Road Commission appreciates the support provided by our local townships in this effort.
- We experienced a bit of a hiccup in providing service to all of our roads during the Christmas storm. Our driver was in the ferry line on the mainland side waiting to take the first trip across to Neebish Island. He was the only one in line to cross. The visibility was not too bad, our driver could see people in the parking lot on the island side. The captain of the ferry did not make the first run of the day. The people on the island side got in their vehicles and left. A retiree who lives on the island followed the tracks left from the ferry to the deck-hand's house. When he approached the deck-hand and inquired about the canceled run, the deck-hand reported the captain sent him home. This interruption in ferry service required the Road Commission to pay overtime wages to the driver who reported to the ferry for the first run over as well as overtime wages for the emergency driver on the island.
- The next meeting with the union to continue contract negotiations will be next week.
- Made aware of a recent grant opportunity through Regional Planning and Michigan Land Bank. The Paradise Garage site fits the criteria for this grant. Have begun the grant application process and the grant award would be up to \$200K to excavate the

old landfill. We are continuing to work with EGLE and the EPA on well monitoring efforts.

- Meeting next week with EGLE, MDOT, and CRA regarding EGLE's new stream mitigation memorandum. It reads like an administrative rule and the discussion will be regarding EGLE failing to follow the Administrative Rule process.
- Upcoming trainings include UP Road Builders in February, County Engineer Workshop, and the Highway Conference and Road Show in March. Have several meetings coming in February with CRA and other committees.
- Contacted by the County Administrator regarding the open Drain Commission Position. Discussion ensued.
- IRS mileage reimbursement rate increased to \$0.655 per mile and the county board approved increasing commissioner pay to \$75 per meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Michigan State Police Spring Weight Patrol Enforcement Contract - Manager Laitinen provided information regarding this agreement and some history to the board.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Laitinen to enter the contract agreement with MSP for weight enforcement during frost law restrictions.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor indicated he would pass along our emissions issues and desire for emergency vehicle status to the County Commission for support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Fred Gulick from Pennington Road in Pickford reported that the 3 Ton limit sign is still on the bridge to his property but that the issues regarding homesteading and installation of well, septic, and foundation this was causing has been rectified. It was decided not to build on this site.
- David Hillman of Trout Lake inquired about township permitting responsibility regarding Fiber installation. Discussion ensued.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Moser reported Drummond Island Township is working to appoint a township supervisor and gave a description of some of the protocols related to this.

Commissioner Sprague expressed appreciation for the appointment to serve and looks forward to working with everyone.

With no further business to come before the Board, thank you to everyone and stay safe. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman