

**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 15, 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, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Sprague, Clerk Christensen.

**GUEST PRESENT:** County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$200,982.88 and Vouchers in the amount of \$182,173.86 from March 2, 2023 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$200,127.29 and Vouchers in the amount of \$396,816.36 from March 15, 2023 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 February 16, 2023 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Nothing new to report.

Superintendent Erickson

- With the quiet weather, crews have been working on cold patch and gravel road maintenance.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as the Sault.

Foreman Rye

- Same as the Sault Garage.

Engineer Boileau

- Opening the local paving bids today.

Clerk Christensen

- No Report.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Next week is the Highway Conference and Road Show.
- Many staff members will be attending training in Escanaba, hosted by MCRCSIP, on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Payroll will be processed on Monday prior to payday. Please have all time cards entered and approved by Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> end of day.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Shop is busy.
- Had an engine failure on a single axle truck.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The seasonal weight restriction were imposed on the local road system on March 8<sup>th</sup>. OxCart is working great for permitting routes during the thaw cycle.
- Attended a mental health first aid training provided by the MSU Extension Office to help recognize when an employee may be experiencing distress.
- Last week CRA and MITA collectively requested legislative action to double the funding for the needs of Michigan roads. CRA also gave testimony relating to the funding shortfall and the impact of electric vehicles on the MTF.
- Two bills are being considered (4152 and 4153) to create local grade separation programs for rail road crossings. This would benefit our system with 23 crossings.
- Van Buren County Road Commission lost the life of an employee when he was killed while flagging on the job. The driver of the vehicle causing the accident was found to be under the influence. Our condolences go out to Van Buren County.
- CCRC has been named in a quiet title action regarding an unimproved street in Brimley.
- The EGLE proposed rule on application of brine will be significantly rolled back from what was presented a couple of

weeks ago. There was significant push back from numerous townships.

- Last week the senate appropriation committee questioned MDOT regarding funding. The committee wants to see a larger percentage provided to local agencies.
- The UP Legislative Banquet is scheduled for next week with the Highway and Road Show. There are 67 guests registered for the banquet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A.) Certification Maps for Signature -

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to authorize Chairman Gagnon to sign the cover pages of the mileage certification maps.

**MOTION CARRIED**

B.) Staffing Discussion -

Manager Laitinen requested the authorization to hire three of the seasonal temporary employees into full time positions.

The Fleet Managers position, authorized late in 2022, has been filled. It was posted internally to all CCRC employees. Mike Donajkowski has been appointed to the position and will begin to fulfil the duties after the winter season night operations are complete.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to grant Manager Laitinen authorization to hire three full-time employees.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- Commissioner Traynor informed the board that the County does own the hospital and the property it sits on. It is still looking to have the property appraised.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of the manager's performance evaluation (MCL 15.268 Sec. 8.(2)(a)).

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANIMOUS ROLLCALL VOTE.**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to re-enter open session.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resumed open session at 8:58 a.m..

No decisions were made during the closed session meeting.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to adjust Manager Laitinen's compensation by 10% as a result of his favorable review.

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANIMOUS ROLLCALL VOTE.**

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Jeremy Gagnon  
Chairman