

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 May 12, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Engineer/Deputy Clerk Boileau, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Union President Cheney, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Office Manager Decker, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen

GUEST PRESENT: Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Trout Lake Township Supervisor Dave Hillman, Pickford Resident Joanne Umbrasas, Bruce Township Resident Chris St. Arnold

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that Payroll in the amount of \$157,295.75 and Vouchers in the amount of \$514,381.86 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 28, 2022 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joanne Umbrasas from Pickford Township requested upgrades to the west half of 25 Mile Road between Aldrich and Fairview. She noted this section of road having significant mud issues and is not passable and she believed these conditions would attract ATVs and other off road vehicles, causing greater damage. Manager Laitinen explained this section of road is seasonal and part of the snowmobile trail. During the winter, grooming the trail causes the frost to be driven deeper into the ground and therefore takes longer to thaw and dry. Until it dries up, we cannot get our equipment back there to grade or add gravel. We have to give it time to dry up.

Chris St. Arnold from Bruce Township requested ditch near his property on Cottage Road in Bruce Township. He recently purchased the property and is planning to move in full-time. Manager Laitinen responded that the Road Commission is communicating with the township regarding this but that we no longer have Right of Way (ROW) in that area. Manager Laitinen indicated he would look at the area and meet with the property owners.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- No report - attending Finance and Human Resources conference in Frankenmuth.

Superintendent Erickson

- Brining Bruce Township.
- Lots of beaver problems.
- Stockpiling material on Sugar Island.
- Bridge and guardrail maintenance.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as Sault.
- Touching up seasonal roads.
- Street sweeping in Rudyard.
- Brushhog running in Brimley.
- Beaver traps on Lakeshore keep getting stolen.

Foreman Rye

- Brush-hogging.
- Cleaning up shoulders.

Engineer Boileau

- Projects are starting
 - Industrial Park Drive May 16th
 - Gogomain Bridges June 6th with a full closure June 9.
 - Hulbert Roads - May 19th
- Requested approval for bridge testing services

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve contracting bridge testing services with CEI Soils and Structures in the amount of \$48K.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Christensen

- No report - attending Finance and Human Resources conference in Frankenmuth.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore - reported by Engineer Boileau

- Attended Straits Area Council.
 - Commissioners hand book should be delivered by month end with a training webinar planned or June for new members.

- o CRASIF will be doing a dividend distribution of \$2.5M with \$1.2M refunded to members.
- o Denise Donohue announced the education committee is bringing a policy workshop in October.
- o Pat at Chalevoix County Road Commission will be requesting supporting movement on a bill introduced to remove royalties on gravel from state owned land.
- o MCRCSIP - Wendy Hardt will be working to re-vamp the EPL Book and add a check list for FOIA responses.
- Working on UP Road Builders registrations and reservations. The event is at the Kewadin Casino on June 15th and June 16th with a slot tournament and auction for the scholarship fund.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Still struggling with parts - shipping and availability.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Shipwreck FLAP increases. Discussion with MDOT, EFL, and USFNS. Bids will open July 8. EFL may be able to add additional funds to FY2022. Discussed possibility of DIB loan allowing Shipwreck Society time to pay CCRC back.
- UP Road builders Agenda complete:
 - o Geotech - importance of soil borings
 - o USACE - Locks project
 - o Insurance Pools - new cases & current trends
 - o Enbridge - Line 5
- Mowing contract signed by MDOT, still waiting on contractor signature.
- Culvert bids - poly coated metal was lower cost this year. Order has been placed.
- The Future City Award for second place state wide was presented to Bahweting School on May 6. In attendance was the manager and engineer for City of Sault Ste. Marie, Sault Ste. Marie Mayor, Tribal Representatives, as well as news and media. Manager Laitinen invited the team to a commission meeting.
- Federal Aid buyout begins in June 2022 on a first come first serve basis. We are seeking buyout for the 2023 project.
- TMobile has requested to build a tower on the Eckerman Garage site. We may be interested in this. Chairman Timmer recommended Chris Olson and Richard Brawley as good sources of information for negotiations.
- Today is Dan Jere's last day with the Road Commission. He is leaving to work on his own farm. Manager Laitinen and Surveyor Wiggins will cover permits.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) No New business.

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Township Supervisor Barry Davis has six (6) new "Welcome to Rudyard" signs to be installed and may need help with ordering and installation.
- Trout Lake Township Supervisor Dave Hillman indicated the brining company needs four days advance notice to work. Manager Laitinen recommended coordinating with Foreman Goodman after grading. Likely after June 1st.

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 8:51 A.M.

Stephanie Boileau
Deputy-Clerk for the Board

Richard Timmer
Chairman