

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 February 1, 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, Engineer Boileau, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney.

ABSENT: None

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

Chairman Gagon accepted the agenda as presented

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$185,548.36 and Vouchers in the amount of \$378,097.08 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 19, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the special meeting minutes from January 25, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the closed session meeting minutes from January 25, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Working on Year End and fuel pumps.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy with winter maintenance from the storm last weekend. Thank you to the crews for coming in when called and all the work to clean up after it.
- Pulled snow from the median on I-75 near the I-500 race track.
- Still dealing with drifting and icy roads conditions.

Foreman Goodman

- Working steady with winter maintenance. On the slow days winging and pushing back snow banks.

Foreman Rye

- Same as the Sault Garage.

Engineer Boileau

- Working bids, estimates, and township road agreements.

Clerk Christensen

- Nuisance reports have been submitted to the county and the state.
- Working with crews to inventory chainsaws, polesaws, and weed trimmers and ensuring they have all the proper personal protection equipment to go with these items.
- Finished up some accident reports for the 650/FedEx truck and 672/passenger vehicle accidents.
- Grand Traverse Crane will be on site Wednesday, February 8th to inspect the scissor lifts, fork lifts, bucket trucks, and overhead cranes at the Sault and Pickford garages.
- Reminder - John Bodner with MIOSHA CET will be onsite February 7th and 8th to meet with the safety committee. The first day is job safety analysis and the second day is hazard recognition. Both meetings will be from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
- MSHA training will be on May 2nd.

Union President Cheney

- This was the first time participating in the negotiation process. It seems to have gone well. Thank you to the board for approving the changes and pay increases.
 - Manager Laitinen echoed the sentiment, noting the meetings went well and we were able to come to an agreement fairly quickly that seems to have been acceptable to most.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Earlier this year it was brought to Clerk Livermore's attention that Dr. Cooper's office was not going to accept our insurance due to timing between billing and payment issues. This has changed. Employees can continue to see Dr. Cooper, however, they will have to pay out of pocket for services up front and then send a reimbursement claim to 44North.

- MCRCSIP is offering a training opportunity to help teach employees how to better manage risk. Manager Laitinen would like district foremen and some of the garage foremen to attend. The training will be on March 29 at the Island Resort and Casino.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Down one mechanic but still moving forward and trying to keep up.
 - Chairman Gagnon inquired about the emissions issue and any progress on the change in classification on our vehicles to keep them on the road rather than experience a crippling derate. Manager Laitinen thanked County Commissioner Traynor for bringing the issue to the county board and garnering their support when the time comes to ask the legislature to bring it up.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Making arrangements for the UP Legislative Banquet. This is put on by the UP Road Builders for our State Representatives and Senators and takes place on the Tuesday night of the Highway Conference in Lansing.
- Seeing a significant number of annual transportation permits coming through OxCart. The software works well and simplifies the process. On February 15th there will be training available for the new function of the software that will handle frost law permitting.
- CRASIF will be hosting a Safety Summit on March 14/15 at the Tree Tops in Gaylord. Abby is working to get people registered for this.
- We will be hosting a special meeting next week for the Wet Lands Board in our office.
- We have two graders and arrow boards out at the I-500 track to help out on race day. Thanks to Todd Nelson, CCRC Operator and Jerome Mayer, CCRC Retiree for volunteering to operate the graders.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Reaffirm Policy #3 (Seasonal Road) and Policy #4 (Acceptance of Roads onto CCRC system).
 - Manager Laitinen reviewed current Seasonal Road policy and recommended reaffirming policy.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to reaffirm Policy #3 - Seasonal Road Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

- Manager Laitinen reviewed current Acceptance of Roads onto the CCRC system and history of the policy, recommending the board reaffirm policy.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to reaffirm Policy #4 - Acceptance of Roads onto CCRC system.

MOTION CARRIED

B.) EUPTA Discussion -

Chairman Gagnon contacted EUPTA after the last meeting in an attempt to schedule a meeting between the Chairmen and managers of EUPTA and CCRC with the purpose of discussing the cancelation of the scheduled ferry run on December 24, 2022 and some other items. The request for meeting was denied by EUPTA, stating the captain made the call the cancel the run and they stand by his decision.

Commissioner Moser and Chairman Gagnon expressed disappointment in the lack of willingness to come together in good faith to discuss.

Manager Laitinen presented photos obtained from the EUPTA showing weather conditions at the ferry, both docks, and the river. In addition he presented wind speeds for the day and other days for comparison from the NOAA Weather station at the island side ferry dock. He noted history has shown the ferry to run scheduled trips during times with much higher wind speeds than those observed that morning. It was noted that the Sugar Island and Drummond Island Ferries ran scheduled trips on this morning.

Manager Laitinen presented a draft letter to be sent on behalf of the Road Commission and Commissioners to EUPTA addressing the issue notifying EUPTA, responsibility and liability is shifted solely to EUPTA on the days CCRC is denied access to the island to maintain roads due to unwarranted cancelations.

C.) Kallio Road Cover Sheet - Manager Laitinen reviewed the proposed work with the board.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to sign the cover sheet for Kallio Road.

MOTION CARRIED

D.) RESOLUTION 2023-01 - MDOT Annual Permit Resolution - this is an annual permit needed to work in the MDOT ROW.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to signed RESOLUTION 2023-01.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLLCALL VOTE

E.) Munuscong River Watershed Partnership - EGLE Grant Project #2022-0002: Manager Laitinen reviewed the parameters of the partnership.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to sign the Munuscong River Watershed Partnership.

MOTION CARREID

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor commented all is quiet around him.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Moser informed the group that a new township supervisor has been appointed on Drummond Island.

Commissioner Sprague thanked everyone for their work.

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman