

**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 July 18, 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, Superintendent Erickson, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union Vice-President Besteman, Clerk Livermore.

**ABSENT:** Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

**GUEST PRESENT:** County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis.

Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda under item 12c, the authorization for signature of the attestation form for the ACT51 Report.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept the agenda with the requested change.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to that the July 6, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$189,924.80 and Vouchers in the amount of \$218,901.19 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that the July 20, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$173,855.92 and Vouchers in the amount of \$314,481.04 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 June 22, 2023 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the Special meeting minutes from June 22, 2023 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Second Quarter financials should be out this week.
- Received a letter from Treasury indicating a corrective action letter is required due to consecutive years showing a negative year-end balance.
- The portable rumble strips have been ordered and received. Training for their deployment will be provided on July 25, 2023 so they can be used on the next State job.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy changing pipes and doing hot mix patching.
- The crew is headed to Sugar Island to finish up Village Road.
- Roadside mowing has started on county roads and they are picking up the state mowing.

Foreman Goodman

- The mower is out doing county roads and picking up state routes in the area.
- Finishing up slope restoration at Whitefish Point.
- Started using the automated flagging device. The crew likes it.

Foreman Rye

- Started the box culvert project on Pennington Road. The crew did a great job.
- Thanks to Surveyor Wiggins for help.

Engineer Boileau

- Finished paving Fairview.
- First two miles of paving on Pennington Road is complete.
- Culvert change went well.
- Moving to Dafter to work on Maple Road next.

Clerk Christensen

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Cheney (presented by Vice-President Besteman)

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- No Report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Thank you everyone for assisting with early payroll processing.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Working to catch up. Nothing major.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Thank you to all of the crews for the work on the box culvert. The project went well. The work done on the 15-mile culvert change was great and having traffic moving again in the same day is appreciated. The crew did a great job on the slope restoration at Whitefish Point.
- Had a demonstration of a new crack sealer last week.
- Lots of meetings this week. There is a Wetland board and Negotiation committee meeting as well as MCRCSIP's annual meeting.
- Brow crushing started work at the Graymont pit.
- EGLE and the DNR have made changes to the acceptable disposal of dead animals on roadways.
- The individual awarded the State mowing contract has been having difficulty keeping up with the work. Road Commission and the contractor have mutually agreed to release the contract per the terms of the agreement. For the remainder of this season, the road commission will assist in completing the necessary mowing. Conversations with MDOT will need to look at contracting out this work next year through a new bid or allow the road commission to take it on as part of our state-maintenance agreement.
- The budget has not yet been sent to the governor for signature. Not sure what is causing the delay in signature process.
- CRA met with Treasury over the pension grant applications. Around the first week of August, we should receive notification on the amount awarded.
- Received a letter from Soo Township requesting support and participation to find a way for the trucks to exit the nearby gravel pit without using the roads in their subdivision. While the roads in that area are not restricted, the heavy volume of trucks hauling materials for large projects in the area is creating significant dust for the residents.
- As part of this year's budget, the board approved for the purchase of a gravel pit on M-123. An offer has been made. Should know more for the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A.) Amend the approved AP Voucher amount from June 22, 2023. The amount, as motioned and approved, was recorded in the minutes was \$370,796.87. It should have been recorded as \$366,625.44. The error was only on the agenda presented, however, the signed voucher and transfer check were for the correct amount (\$366,625.44).

**MOTION** by Commission Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to amend the recorded amount of the AP Voucher to \$366,625.44.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- B.) Approval of a three-year contract for auditing services with Anderson Tackman. Office Manager Decker explained to the board the local Anderson Tackman firm cannot continue to service us. He presented the average cost of the past few years as a comparison to the cost of the Marquette firm coming on site and recommended approval of the three-year contract.

**MOTION** by Commission Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the three-year contract for auditing with Anderson Tackman.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- C.) Attestation signature for ACT51. Office Manager Decker explained this is an annual signature necessary to complete the filing of ACT51 and that this report should be completed by the end of the month.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve and authorize the signature.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- County Commissioner Traynor reported the sale of the War Memorial Hospital building passed with a four to one vote. He also reported that Drummond Island has ordered for dust control work to be done.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis thanked Foreman Goodman and his crew for the work done in preparation for their annual event.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Jeremy Gagnon  
Chairman