

A SPECIAL 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 December 23, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

GUEST PRESENT: None.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Office Manager Livermore presented a balanced budget proposal for 2026. Noting for the coming year minimal new capital outlay purchases planned for 2026, however significant obligations including the Western Stars purchased in 2025 to be upfitted in 2026 and the purchase with upfitting of six Peterbilt tandem trucks. One smaller item is the purchase of a replacement mulcher head. Total capital outlay \$3,457,764. Some line items of the proposed budget for 2026 were provided in more detail, including numerous primary and local projects planned for 2026. The projects are detailed in Schedule 1 (page 3 & 4). Page 2 shows financing to cover the capital outlay for new trucks and upfitting. MTF is estimated a little light from the estimates provided by ORTA (\$9M vs \$9.3M). This is to recognize the 20% reduction being experienced because of the timing in the 2025 road funding package. The Neighborhood Road Funds (NRF) are estimated at \$1.5M. The original projection showed a possible \$3M, however timing of the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) collection and disbursement to road commissions and the collection of Wholesale tax on marijuana will put receipts of new money off until November or December of 2026. There is no clear guidance on if/when/ or how those funds will be distributed to Road Commissions. There is also no definitive answer to the contesting of the wholesale tax money and if it gets taken away from the formula, it accounts for more than 1/3 of the fund. It is likely we won't see all the NRF in the first year. The budget is estimated at half. Manager Laitinen noted the proposed budget is balanced and that the overall goal to grow the fund balance will be considered if sources of funding come in higher or sooner than projected. He also noted that while the Neighborhood Road Fund needs to be included in the budget, his overall feeling was that it may be estimated a bit high and require adjustment later in the year. Greater high-level detail of the projects planned for 2026 was presented.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman