

**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 December 18, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Moser called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Livermore, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Johnson, Clerk McLean, and Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

**ABSENT:** Chairman Gagnon, Engineer Boileau, Union President Bumstead, Clerk Sillers, and Chief Mechanic Lipponen.

**GUEST PRESENT:**

Rudyard Township Supervisor John Krentz

Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda, presenting a road agreement from Rudyard Township.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Vice-Chairman Moser to accept the agenda with the added township agreement added as item c.) under new business.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$268,417.25 and Vouchers in the amount of \$410,107.22 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

Office Manager Livermore noted there was more than 1,600 hours of overtime included in payroll and that major expenses for the period included long term debt payments and insurance.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 4, 2025, and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Livermore

- Working on year-end reporting

Foreman Johnston

- Dealing with weather changes.

- Appreciate the staff coming in when called.

Foreman Goodman

- With the short break in weather, working to catch up on equipment repair and peeling back some of the snowpack.
- Mechanics are doing well to keep up with repairs. Like the new weekend mechanic schedule.

Foreman Johnson

- Similar to the other garages.

Engineer Boileau

- No report.

Clerk Sillers

- No Report.

Union President Bumstead

- No Report.

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Lipponen

- No Report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Started a mechanic weekend schedule to have a mechanic in the garage on the weekends for a minimum of four (4) hours on Saturday and Sunday to address needs during weekends.
- Working through the transitioning for parts room and chief mechanic.
- Looking at the truck specs with Peterbilt before sending final approval to the manufacturer.
- Working on putting the bid request for Peterbilt upfitting.

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

- Attended the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions conference and the CRA board meeting. There was considerable discussion regarding the new funding and the timing of release. We will see a 20% reduction in MTF payments in December, January, and February. Corporate Income tax likely will not be seen in the road funding until 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2026. There was a good session updating the progress made in the MDOT contract negotiations.
- Started negotiations with the union this week.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Bruce Township Road Agreement - 12 Mile Road between M-129 and Riverside Dr. Township share \$145,000.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to sign Bruce Township Road Agreement for 12 Mile Road between M-129 and Riverside Drive.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- b. Rename Lee Road on Neebish Island - Manager Laitinen presented a letter regarding a request to rename Lee Road on Neebish Island to Laitinen Road. The request recognized past county practice of naming roads in honor of original settlers in the area. The Lee family no longer resides on the island and several generations of the Laitinen family have and continue to reside on the island.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser rename Lee Road to Laitinen Road.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- c. Rudyard Township Road Agreement - Prairie Road between Dryburg Road and approx. 1,300 feet east of Chub Creek Road. Township share \$175,000.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to sign Rudyard Township Road Agreement for Prairie Road between Dryburg Road and approx. 1,300 feet east of Chub Creek Road.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**County Commissioners' Comments**

- No Report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Manager Laitinen reported a pipe burst over the weekend in the county building on the third floor.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

None

**CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to enter Closed Session in accordance with MCL 15.267 Sec. 8(1)(c) for the purpose of strategy for negotiation session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement at 8:34 a.m.

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to re-enter the Regular Meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to grant Manager Laitinen authorization to bring the items discussed in closed session to the bargaining table under the limits/parameters discussed in closed session.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 A.M

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Charles Moser  
Vice-Chairman