

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 August 3, 2023.

Vice-chairman Moser called the meeting to order at 8:01 A.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Rye, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney, Clerk Livermore.

ABSENT: Chairman Gagnon, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Clerk Christensen.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, Trout Lake Trustee Dave Hillman.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to that the August 3, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$173,222.06 and Vouchers in the amount of \$456,505.08 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 18, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Corrective Action plan has been submitted to Michigan Department of Treasury.
- The Pension grant funds have been awarded. The Road Commission will receive a direct award of funds into the pension account at MERS.
- Act 51 for 2022 was submitted to MDOT.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Rye

- Box culvert on Pennington Road complete. The crew did a great job.
- Mowing on Neebish Island is complete.
- Brushing on M-48 starting next.
- Shoulder work on M-80 will start next week.

Engineer Boileau

- Paving on Fairview and 11 Mile/Maple Road complete. Shoulders and markings to be done next.
- The intersection paving in Rudyard to start after Labor Day.
- PK Contracting to start the federal aid striping work this fall.

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Union President Cheney

- Thanked the board for purchasing the Automated Flagging Devices. The crew saw first hand on the first day how these devices can save lives when a truck failed to slow down when reaching the work-zone. The truck crashed through the break-a-way arm and continued through the work-zone without stopping. Our fast-thinking crew got pictures of the vehicle and plates and law enforcement have the information. On behalf of the union thank you for purchasing this equipment to help keep our crew safe.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Catching up on lots of little things after being on vacation.
- New garage doors are up and final adjustments should be done today.
- Presented a proposal from UP Engineers and Architects to provide plans to open up the mechanics area with the installation of two new garage doors on the south end of the Soo Garage. The cost of the proposed work is \$6,970.00

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser granting authorization to Fleet Manager Donajkowski to sign the contract with UP Engineers and Architects.

MOTION CARRIED

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended CRA Committee meetings and the MCRCSIP annual meeting.
 - Education Committee - through surveys of numerous key positions at road commissions, the committee used the

information to identify three key areas of focus for this year's education initiatives:

Communication - inter-office, with the public, conflict resolution, etc.

Emergency & Crisis Management

Leadership

- o F&HR - The software committee will be sending out an FAQ sheet with an attached survey. We are encouraging all road commissions to take the time to complete the survey. It will help gauge the interest in the idea of an alternate source of software now that some of the information has been distributed.

The survey following the F&HR conference provided some good insight for planning next year's event. A significant number of respondents want to have user sessions with the software providers at least every-other year. The respondents want more time for Q&A after presentations. They also want more nuts-and-bolts type sessions regarding accounting and HR.

- o The education portion of the MCRCSIP annual meeting included three liability presentations:
 - Andrew Cascini - Employment Law
 - Adam Tountas - Road Maintenance Liability
 - Bill Henn - Road Law

At the business meeting, the Pool reported that it was overall a good year and presented the road commissions with refund checks for part of the dues paid.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Back from vacation - repairs going well.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the Transportation Research Conference on low volume roads in Cedar Rapids.
- Big news - Governor Whitmer signed the budget, increasing the transportation budget by 8.1% and some one-time appropriations.
- Watching HB4892 regarding the Open Meetings Act and electronic participation.
- Meeting the DNR and EGLE on Drummond Island next month to address some flooding issues in Pigeon Cove.

- At Straits Area Council, CRA added requesting Road Commissions be added to the list of entities able to claim exemption from the hard caps established by PA152. Removal of the hard cap will allow road commissions a better opportunity to offer competitive jobs by allowing for a good health insurance benefit.
- The Michigan DNR Natural Resource Commission will be in the area to tour the area as well as some of our project sites.
- The offer made on the property on M-123 has been accepted. Closing should occur by mid-September.
- Pension grant came through.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) CRASIF Board Ballot - Three positions with three incumbent candidates running. The candidates are: Tom Doty, Mackinac County; Ken Hulka, Muskegon County; and Beth Hunt, Lenawee County.

MOTION by Commission Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to cast the three votes for the three incumbents running.

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) PA51 Annual Certification of Employee Related Conditions.

MOTION by Commission Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to for Chairman Gagnon to sign the annual certification.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Authorization to bid for additional mower - this request falls outside of the annual capital outlay request. Due to savings on other purchases this year, the purchase of an additional mower will not significantly put the Road Commission over budget on capital purchases. By picking up the remainder of this year's state contract mowing, the need to have a back-up mower has presented.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to allow for an additional mower to go out to bid.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported the administration office is closed today. There is a Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis thanked Foreman Goodman and his crew for the work done in preparation for their annual event.
- Trout Lake Township Trustee David Hillman reported AEG is laying groundwork for fiber lines in Trout Lake.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Vice-chairman Moser wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Charles Moser
Vice-Chairman