

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 4, 2025.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

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

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Clerk Sillers, Union President Bumstead, and Chief Mechanic Marsh.

GUEST PRESENT:

County Commission Jim Traynor

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$223,770.45 and Vouchers in the amount of \$380,239.58 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 November 20, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Closed meeting minutes from November 20, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Been included in an email chain with finance directors from Straits Area Council and Great Lakes Council regarding the new funding. Each of us saw a 15% - 19% decrease in October MTF, this year vs last year, to be received in December. We saw a 19% decrease (approx. \$125K). This group also noted a 35% reduction in MTF September over October 2025 (\$280K). The difference in

year over year vs month over month is because the snow-funds are up slightly from last year. Many in the group are budgeting and cashflow forecasting based on 2025 MTF with a slight percentage decrease, not accounting for the additional money in the Neighborhood Road Funds until they start to see those funds come through. There is still skepticism on the when and if we will see them before the start of second quarter 2026 as the marijuana tax funds are still being litigated. If the courts rule against this new tax, we won't see a significant increase in the form of new funding. The consensus is that the projected fuel tax increase will be minimal for road commissions, most of the clerks estimating less than \$50K.

- Working on starting year end close out. Inventory counts and adjustments are the first step. Requested all garages to check to make sure any outstanding invoices or statements are submitted to the office immediately.

Foreman Johnston

- Winter operations. Thanked the mechanics for keeping the fleet going.

Foreman Goodman

- Working to train new employees.

Foreman Johnson

- Thanked the mechanics and noted the crew is doing well to get the job done even though short-handed.

Engineer Boileau

- No report.

Clerk Sillers

- No Report.

Union President Bumstead

- No Report

Clerk McLean

- Been working to utilize the email paystubs function in the payroll software. Have it done and will send forms to everyone to opt in. This feature is for direct deposit only.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Thanked mechanics for staying on top of repairs and keeping the fleet running during the continuous weather.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- At the last meeting, reported the significant unrealized gains in the MERS portfolio YTD. Yesterday saw a news report that MERS is involved in a lawsuit regarding the handling of the coffee farm investment.
- Thanked the shops for keeping on top of equipment repairs and noted the new mechanics seem to be settling in.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2026 Meeting Scheduled - Office Manager Livermore presented the 2026 schedule, noting January 1st would be a pay date, however the holiday requires it be moved and will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. **A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 immediately following the Regular Board Meeting for the purpose of adopting the 2026 Budget, the 2025 budget amendment, and officer designation.** Other conflicts were discussed and dates adjusted.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule to include date changes of December 31, 2025, March 24, 2026, and June 30, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

None

County Commissioners' Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported the crews have done a good job clearing the snow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon echoed the sentiment and wished everyone to "stay safe".

The meeting was adjourned at 8L:25 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman