

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 January 15, 2026.

Clerk Livermore called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Livermore, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Johnson, Clerk Sillers, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk McLean, Union President Bumstead.

ABSENT:

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

Clerk Livermore opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the office of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Sprague nominates Commissioner Gagnon to serve as Chairman and Commissioner Moser to serve as Vice Chairman.

Second call for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman - None
Third call for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman - None

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gagnon to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Gagnon as Chairman and Commissioner Moser as Vice Chairman.

MOTION CARRIED

Clerk Livermore turned the meeting over to Chairman Gagnon.

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 \$290,592.51 and Vouchers in the amount of \$517,947.53 plus an additional Voucher in the amount of \$35,020 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 December 31, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Public Hearing Minutes from December 31, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Gathered documents and information for collective bargaining process.
- Year-end close out work.
- Worked with Clerk McClean to develop a way to reimburse commissioners through payroll and direct deposit.

Foreman Johnston

- Busy with snow/wind/rain. Guys are doing great and showing up when we need them.

Foreman Goodman

- Plugging away at keeping up with weather.
- Thank you to the shop.
- Can't let up on legislature to help with emission issues. Discussion ensued.

Foreman Johnson

- Crews working a lot of OT and doing a good job.

Engineer Boileau

- Will cover in new business.

Clerk Sillers

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Bumstead

- Nothing new to report

Clerk McLean

- Yearend prep work.
- W2s are out.
- Signing people up for electronic pay stubs.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Purchased a blower.
- Met with Peterbilt to finalize truck specs and body builds.
- The first Western Star is at Truck & Trailer

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Will review negotiation progress in closed session.
- Contract negotiations with MDOT. Just the dispute resolution process is left to go.
- Started planning the annual legislative banquet, however it will be put off again this year due to House and Senate not being available.
- Met with Peterbilt and JX Enterprises. Wished Dan Bruner well as he enters into retirement.
- Received notice for training being held in St. Ignace for foreman. MCRCSIP is providing Reasonable Suspicion training and crash investigation.
- A memo is going out regarding the safety reimbursement program. To provide better oversight of the program, the open lines of credit for employees to use to purchase PPE will be closed. Reimbursement will be provided through presentation of receipts and paid through AP.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) RESOLUTION 2026-01: MDOT contract for 2026 Federal Aid Bridge Project JN220731 (H40 Bridges).

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve RESOLUTION 2026-01.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- b.) Re-sign Prairie Road title Sheet (JN215517) - Engineer Boileau provided clarification.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize the signature of the title sheet.

MOTION CARRIED

- c.) Request for Engineer Boileau to attend the annual ATSSA Expo in Houston, TX. Engineer Boileau presented some details regarding the conference, including the cost for the Road Commission.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the out of state travel for the ATSSA expo for Engineer Boileau.

MOTION CARRIED

- d.) Annual Transportation Permitting - Manager Laitinen reviewed the coming changes to the annual permitting process. No action required by the board.

e.) FOIA response regarding Ridge Road - Manager Laitinen presented a letter drafted by MCRCSIP for the signature of the Chairman. This is in response to requested clarification on documentation requested under FOIA that we do not have. No action required by the board.

f.) Annual Certification Map signature

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize signature of the Certification Map.

MOTION CARRIED

g.) Purchase snowblower unit for \$35,000 from AD Transport plus and additional \$20 for bank wire fee:

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize the purchase of the snowblower unit for a total of \$35,020.

MOTION CARRIED

h.) Approve revised ESTA Policy: Manager Laitinen provided brief explanation regarding a change to verbiage in the policy to better match the intent of the policy.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the revised ESTA Policy

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported the courthouse is going to be expensive to fix.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- None.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to enter Closed Session at 8:43 a.m. 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.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to re-enter the Regular Meeting at 9:13 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the Memo of Understanding with the union to extend the collective bargaining agreement with the provisions discussed.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman