

**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 29, 2026.

Chairman Gagnon 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, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Union President Bumstead.

**ABSENT:** Clerk McLean, Clerk Sillers.

**GUEST PRESENT:** Guest John Evashevski and County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$289,747.59 and Vouchers in the amount of \$225,810.43 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 January 15, 2026, and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Closed Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2026, and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Livermore

- Worked with Clerk McLean to get electronic W2s filed.
- Attended UP Road Builders. Will use information gathered at the meeting to put together a Road Funding package presentation to explain how the package will affect the Road Commission in the short term.

Foreman Johnston

- Slicer/Grader/Blower out on state areas.
- Hope to get the slicer/grader/blower out on county roads.

Foreman Goodman

- Guys got a short but needed break from weather.
- Still dealing with cold/bitter temperatures.
- West side of county still getting snow.

Foreman Johnson

- Attended the training in St. Ignace for refresher on crash assessment and reasonable suspicion.

Engineer Boileau

- Wrapping up year-end paperwork and Asset Management Plan.

Clerk Sillers

- No Report.

Union President Bumstead

- Nothing new to report

Clerk McLean

- No Report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Attended the training in St. Ignace.
- Attended UP Road Builders and met with other counties experiencing the same issues.
- Sent out the request for bids to upfit the six (6) Peterbilt trucks.
- Shop busy with truck repairs.

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

- Out on vacation last week.
- Composing a letter to the director of the EPA regarding emission standards for plow trucks. Will present to board when complete and provide a copy to CRA.
- Successfully passed an extension of the CBA with the union.
- Contacted by I-500 official. Will be providing a couple of graders and volunteer operators for race day.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a.) Emerson Bay Discussion - Commissioner Moser brought the issue to the board to discuss. Manager Laitinen explained that upon retirement of a couple of operators it was discovered that the Road Commission was providing assistance with plowing parking lots own by state departments and not the Road Commission. Manager Laitinen provided instruction that this practice was

to stop, noting the funding mechanism for the Road Commission and ensuring appropriate use of funding. Manager Laitinen outlined the proper chain of directive and agreed to reach out to MDOT to request assistance with this.

- b.) RESOLUTION 2026-02 - Adoption of the 2025 Transportation Asset Management Plan. Engineer Boileau presented the board with an Asset Management Plan report. She provided a progress report regarding roads, bridges, and culverts.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve RESOLUTION 2026-02 - Adoption of the 2025 Transportation Asset Management Plan.

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

- c.) CRA Board Ballot - Manager Laitinen presented the board with the ballot for a four-year position to be filled by a member of the UP Road Builders Section. The current incumbent is the only person running for the position.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to cast the Road Commissions vote for the current incumbent for the CRA Board position.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- d.) USDA Nuisance Trapping Contract - this is a renewal of the contract utilized with the USDA to manage nuisance animals.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the contract with the USDA.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- e.) 2026 Soils & Structures Contract for 2026 in the amount of \$140,272 - Engineer Boileau provided information on scope and the projects included in this contract.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize and approve the contract with Soils & Structures.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- f.) Award Truck Financing Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the financing bids provided by 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of St. Ignace, Central Savings Bank, and Huntington National Bank. He noted the rates, pre-payment penalties, payment terms, and relationships with the lenders. He recommended the bid be awarded to Central Savings Bank.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the truck financing for six (6) Peterbilt trucks to Central Savings Bank.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioner's Comments**

- Commissioner Traynor reported receipts of complaints by residents regarding the plowing operation in his area. He reported calling the office and it has since been corrected.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to "stay safe".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 A.M

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Jeremy Gagnon  
Chairman