

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 May 8, 2025.

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

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

ABSENT: Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Christensen, and Union President Eavou.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor

Manager Laitinen requested item e. Corps of Engineers Agreement be an addition to the agenda under New Business.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept the addition to the agenda and approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$186,881.24 and Vouchers in the amount of \$957,120.24 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

Office Manager Livermore noted major expenditures in AP include the MERS Contribution and purchase of a Loader, Grader, and Lowboy Trailer.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Gagnon requested the minutes from April 24, 2025, be changed to reflect Vice-Chairman Moser calling the meeting to order in his absence. Commissioner Sprague requested the completion of the sentence regarding Senator Slotkin in the Manager's report. Manager Laitinen reviewed and commented the application process was in regard to earmark projects for consideration.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 24, 2025, with the noted corrections and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- During the audit an error in Performance Bond entries for Asphlund Trees was made in 2024. An invoice was generated, creating a receivable and a liability for them. To remove the receivable and payable from the system cleanly in a subsequent year, the "write-off" function is best suited. Voiding the invoice would change the 2024 year-end totals. This entry is a balance sheet only entry. Prior to "writing-off" the invoice, will work with Engineer Boileau to ensure Asphlund does not intend to do work in 2025 requiring the performance bond. This information is just so the board is aware.
- Military Leave / MERS - MERS is requesting confirmation on the option for recording service credit during military leave.

Historically we have done option 1 where the road commission reports historic wage amounts and pays the 2% employee contribution on behalf of the employee and then recoups the contributions upon the employee's return. Recommend continuing to do the same. With no change to process, no action required.

Foreman Johnston

- Grading gravel roads.
- Working through the spring maintenance punch list from MDOT.
- Screen plant set up at 15 Mile Road.

Foreman Goodman

- Grader is out pulling shoulders. Roads are drying up well.
- Working on changing out pipes and fixing washouts.
- It will be a while before we can grade the seasonal roads in the Maple Block area. There is still a lot of snow up there.

Foreman Johnson

- Same as Foreman Goodman. Working on the gravel roads.
- The mower is out south of Detour.
- Drummond Island is working on cleaning up brush along Big Shoal.

Engineer Boileau

- Hit a milestone with the job at Chub Creek. The north abutment is poured.
- Federal Aid jobs will go into full swing after Memorial Day.
- 16 Mile Road work will begin on June 11th.
- Mackinac Trail does not have a hard start date yet, but it should be around mid-June.

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Acting Union President Besteman

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- Working to cross train the AP function.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Lots of projects in the works.
- Shop transitioning to Spring work, starting with some box rebuilds.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mechanic Eavou has tendered a resignation notice. His last day will be Monday. He is returning to Fabick Cat. We wish him well.
- Worked with the Wetland Board to set up the obligation schedule.
- Looking at lifting the remaining seasonal road restrictions on Monday, May 12, 2025.
- Received a request from CRA President, Jerry Byrne, asking individual serving on three or more committees/sub-committees to choose their top two committees so as president he can select others to fill seats on the various committees from a list of approximately 24 counties with no representation. Volunteers serve on these committees to provide perspective, institutional knowledge gained over the course of years, and bring back information to their districts. This letter has left many feeling underappreciated for their time and service.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tower Road Realignment - Engineer Boileau described the work, indicating Payne and Dolan was the low bidder and that the work is 100% funded by the Tribal Safety Fund.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the bid to Payne & Dolan.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Monocle Lake Campground - Engineer Boileau reviewed the project with the board. This would be 100% funded by the Forest Service. The initial bids received were higher than the budget provided by the Forest Service. Recommended all bids be accepted and the award be based on the discussion with the Forest Service and decision to proceed.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept all bids and award the bid based on the decision of the Forrest Service.

MOTION CARRIED

- c. Mission Hill Overlay Bid - Engineer Boileau described the project to the board, indicating the funding would come from a Tribal Safety Grant and that the road commission would split (50/50) approximately \$103K with the Bay Mills Tribe. Manager Laitinen voiced the importance of this project and that if the erosion continues and the road is completely lost, replacement of the road would be nearly if not impossible with the environmental hurdles involved. Payne & Dolan was listed as the low bidder on this project.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the overlay bid to Payne & Dolan.

MOTION CARRIED

- d. Drag Blade Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the bids presented on the different blade requirements, noting the Road Commission's major purchase is for the 3/4 x 8 x 72 blade, with Truck and Trailer being the low bidder on that product. St. Regis is the only company that offers an integrated wing blade and shoe combination.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the bid for the major blade purchase to Truck and Trailer and accept the bid from St. Regis for the integrated wing blade with shoes.

MOTION CARRIED

- e. Corps of Engineers Agreement - Manager Laitinen explained this is the five-year Ferry Road Agreement on Neebish Island.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to grant Manager Laitinen authorization to sign the Ferry Road agreement with the Corps of Engineers.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported working on finding a resolution through the legislators regarding the limited ferry service to and from Neebish Island, advocating for a hunting season in the UP for wolf, and the meeting date regarding the solid waste issue will be May 26th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to “stay safe”. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman