

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 April 9, 2026.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM

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

ABSENT: Clerk Sillers.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Trayner

Manager Laitinen requested to add RESOLUTION 2026-04 Millage Renewal to the agenda under item h.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept the agenda with the added item h.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$232,806.08 and Vouchers in the amount of \$1,009,581.70 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit. Office Manager Livermore noted nearly \$650K was attributed to health insurance, liability insurance, pension, and project match. Manager Laitinen noted this is the first month where MTF received slightly higher as the new cents per gallon is now being collected and distributed under the 2025 funding package.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 23, 2026, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Getting ready for the auditors to arrive next week.
- Sent an invoice for just over \$10,800 to Delta County Road Commission for labor, equipment, and fringe to help with winter storm state of emergency.

- Attended the Road Show last week. Good conference. Treasury presented a session on the new funding and are still uncertain on the timing and as we all wait to see the outcome of the litigation regarding the marijuana tax, there is still no guarantee on CIT funding and timing if road commissions see any of the CIT will not be until calendar 4th quarter of this year.

Foreman Johnston

- Same as Foreman Goodman. Dealing with lots of water issues and rough gravel roads. Still too wet to do much on most.

Foreman Goodman

- Thanked the office staff for getting through the calls and complaints this winter and as we go into the thaw. It's been a long winter.

Foreman Johnson

- Similar to the other areas. Dealing with water problems and out dragging and patching roads.

Engineer Boileau

- Been out for the conference and then vacation.
- Continuing to work on project close out.

Clerk Sillers

- No report.

Union President Bumstead

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Picked up the shop truck from Indiana. Thanked the board for approval of the purchase.
- Attended the Road Show.
- Received two frame rebuilds back. These single axle trucks will be back on the roads soon.
- Fully staffed with mechanics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended the Road Show. Lots of good stuff.
- Main concern right now is water problems as we come into the thaw.
- Starting to plan for Spring/Summer work. Resumed the weekly Management meetings on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
- Night operations have been extended by one week.

- Today the postings for open positions expires. We had some really good seasonal temps working for us this winter and hope to be looking to them to fill some of the open positions.
- The annual Spring Safety meeting is Scheduled for April 27th at the Kinross Hall. M-SHA training will be in the morning.
- Contacted by Bergman's office regarding the letter sent to the EPA. He is interested in taking up the issue with emergency vehicle designation.
- Spent yesterday meeting with our reps at Acrisure to review the BCBS renewal and compare it to the proposal sent by the United Steel Workers.
- Been working with Kelly Church on ballot language for the millage renewal.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Award Culvert Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the bid results, noting a bid from ETNA was not received this year. Pickford Builder was the only bid received for Plastic pipe. St. Regis was low bid for metal pipe. Recommendation was to award the bulk order of plastic pipe to Pickford Builder and the bulk order of metal pipe to St. Regis.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the bulk order of plastic pipe to Pickford Builder and the bulk order of metal pipe to St. Regis.

MOTION CARRIED

- b.) Received a letter Dalton/Tomich, counsel for residents objecting to a boat launch to Lake Superior being installed on Access Road. Manager Laitinen reviewed the situation with the board and reported this letter has been presented to our Liability Insurer and moved to Bill Henn for response.
- c.) Kinross Township Road Agreement - Bound Road between Thompson and Lockhart Roads. Township share \$198,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to accept the Kinross Township Road Agreement for Bound Road.

MOTION CARRIED

- d.) Reaffirm Investment Policy (#15) - Manager Laitinen reviewed the policy with the board, noting not recommendation for changes.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commission Sprague to reaffirm the Investment Policy (#15).

MOTION CARRIED

- e.) Authorize Office Manager Livermore to open a savings account with Morgan Stanley and transfer \$50K from the savings account at Central Savings Bank to the savings account at Morgan Stanely. Manager Laitinen informed the board of a plan being developed with Office Manager Livermore to establish a liquid cash fund with a balance that would provide resources necessary in the event of an emergency or funding lag. Office Manager Livermore noted a new account with Morgan Stanley would also provide a higher level of insured deposit coverage.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Office Manager Livermore to open a savings account with Morgan Stanley and transfer \$50K.

MOTION CARRIED

- f.) Authorize the transfer of \$50K to the OPEB Trust

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize the transfer of \$50K to the OPEB Trust.

MOTION CARRIED

- g.) Authorize Chairman Gagnon and Office Manager Livermore to sign the engagement letter with Anderson Tackman.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Chairman Gagnon and Office Manager Livermore to sign the engagement letter with Anderson Tackman.

MOTION CARRIED

- h.) RESOLUTION 2026-04 Millage Renewal - Manager Laitinen reviewed language of the resolution with the board. This is the five-year renewal of the road millage to be included on the August ballot.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve RESOLUTION 2026-04 Millage Renewal.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioner's Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported discussion at the EUPTA meeting regarding extending the Neebish Island Ferry hours to include runs up until mid-night.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon thanked every for the work during the storm and wished everyone to "stay safe".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman