

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 June 19, 2025.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

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

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Acting Union President Besteman

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor and Rudyard Township Supervisor John Krentz

Manager Laitinen requested an application to withdraw the parcel of land purchase in Paradise from the Commercial Forrest Reserve be added as item d.) under New Business.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$184,242.44 and Vouchers in the amount of \$279,588.51 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 June 5, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- MCRC SIP annual meeting is scheduled for July 23rd and 24th at the Soaring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant. The 23rd is a legal learning opportunity and the morning of the 24th is the annual meeting.
- It's time to register for the MERS conference. This year's conference will be in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Resort from Wednesday, October 15 through Friday October 17th. Early bird registration saves \$90 per person. I will need the union delegate chosen and reported back by July 24th.
- Attended UP Road Builders. Sat in on the State Maintenance meeting. All UP Counties with a state maintenance contract have been requested to do the manual overhead calculation. The guaranteed rate is 8.5%. The state will not move the rate unless it can be proven that most counties exceed this rate. Our current calculated rate is less than 8.5%.
- Received the draft of the financials from Anderson Tackman. In the process of reviewing. Will need to schedule an exit interview.
- Payroll for July 3rd will be processed early for a pay date of July 2nd to accommodate the holiday and floating holiday in the office. The regular meeting will be held as scheduled on Tuesday, July 1st. Please be sure to have all timecards entered and approved by Friday, June 27th.

Foreman Johnston

- The bypass road on 12 Mile Road is nearly ½ complete.
- The bridge crew is working on Lake Shore to Paradise.
- Brine will be done in Bruce Township on Monday.

Foreman Goodman

- Introduced the new Rudyard Township Supervisor, John Krentz.
- Trout Lake and Rudyard brine work is done.
- Shoulder work M28 to Trout Lake.
- AMZ out on county roads.

Foreman Johnson

- Ditching work on Neebish Island.
- Graveling Paholka Road this week.
- Working on the M-129 Shoulder rebuild.
- State mowing started.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Nothing new to report.

Acting Union President Besteman

- No Report.

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Trying to stay ahead

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Attended UP Road Builders.
- Every three years our tanks undergo inspection. This year we had a few issues with the Sault and Brimley tanks. After some repair/maintenance of the Brimley tank, it has passed inspection and is good for three more years. Waiting on results of Sault.
- Working on First Aid inspections to ensure there are no expired items in the kits.
- Received the truck from the International Bridge Authority.
- The grader from Menominee was delivered.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Drove by both bypass roads. They look good and are coming along nicely.
- Attended the UP Road Builders. It was well attended and a good event. At the event, the association introduced an alteration to the funding regarding bridges, prompting CRA to request part of the funding be distributed so it would be allowable to use the funding for direct force maintenance of bridges.
- The transportation package is still stalled. Expected to move as early as next week. Still monitoring.
- Engineers' Day is next Friday. Cloverland Electric has arranged for a "Touch a Truck" event and requested us to provide a plow truck and grader with representatives available to answer questions.
- Received a truck from International Bridge Authority and want to thank them for the opportunity to purchase it before they sent it to the scrap yard. This truck matches the specs of many units in our fleet and will provide replacement parts.
- Trunkline negotiations are going well.
- Trunkline mowing has begun.

- Received an invitation to the ribbon cutting event at the Soo Carbide Dock.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. MCRC SIP ballots - Two incumbents for the two UP seats running unopposed. One incumbent for the one statewide At Large seat running unopposed. Manager Laitinen recommended casting the three available votes for the three incumbents.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to cast the votes for the incumbents.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. BCBSM renewal cost share - Manager Laitinen reviewed the renewal with the board and the cost share that has been tentatively agreed to with the Union. It was noted that for the new plan year beginning on August 1, 2025, the per pay period, employee shares proposed were \$25 for the Base Plan, \$68 for the Buy Up Option 1, and \$187 for the Buy Up Option 2.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Manager Laitinen and Office Manager Livermore to proceed in the renewal for the Health Care plan with the \$25/\$68/\$187 cost share.

MOTION CARRIED

- c. Support for Pickford Township Board Resolution requesting a speed study for Main Street. Manager Laitinen reviewed the history of the speed set for Main Street and the order from MSP to remove the posted signage and then recommended support of this resolution.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague in support of the Pickford Township Board Resolution requesting a speed study for Main Street.

MOTION CARRIED

- d. Application to withdraw land from the Commercial Forrest Reserve. Manager Laitinen reviewed the missing document from the purchase of the land in Paradise and the deadline to submit this application.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize the board to sign the application and submit.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

County Commissioners' Comments

- The prison is hurting for employees. Employees are resigning as quickly as new employees are being hired.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to "stay safe". The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman