

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 5, 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, Acting Union President Besteman.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Chief Mechanic Marsh, and Clerk Christensen.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor and Resident Dan Buhro

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 \$182,852.62 and Vouchers in the amount of \$540,972.59 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, BCBSM Insurance, and installment loan at First National of St. Ignace.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 22, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Dan Buhro addressed the board with concerns regarding the Road Agreement for 14 Mile Road, East off Riverside Drive. It was noted the road agreement language was vague on the specifics of the job, leaving concerns regarding the impact a two-foot lift on the road would have on water flow through and around residents' properties. Manager Laitinen addressed the concerns, noting undercutting and filling would occur where appropriate. The goal of the Road Commission is to create results that do not leave drainage issues. Foreman Johnston noted that the project included replacement of existing culverts and not installation of new culverts to change the current water flow pattern.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Presented the board with the yearend financials and reviewed the results, noting the year ended with revenue in excess of expense and the current ratio supporting a solid short-term financial position.

Foreman Johnston

- 12 Mile Bridge Crew working westward cleaning the brush from bridges.
- Sugar Island crew cleaning out ditches.
- 14 Mile Road is receiving vegetation cutting in preparation for work.

Foreman Goodman

- Rudyard Township has brine coming. Blading the roads in preparation.
- Two (2) AMZ machines are out. One in Brimley and the other in Eckerman.

Foreman Johnson

- 16 Mile Bypass finished and opened up.
- Hauling gravel to get ready to start some state trunkline shoulder work.
- Finishing the patching where culverts were replaced.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Acting Union President Besteman

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- The next board meeting falls on June 19th which is a Federal Holiday. Direct deposits for payroll will have to be processed on a different day. Recommended that payroll be processed for Wednesday, June 18th. Office Manager Livermore indicated signatures for fund transfers can be obtained on Wednesday and the approval can be reaffirmed at the meeting on the 19th. Chairman Gagnon agreed. This change will have not affect on AP.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Finished the painting the fuel tank in the Soo and Brimley.
- Working on yearly inspections.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Had our second insurance renewal meeting with BCBSM/Acrisure. Office Manager Livermore started the process last month. We met with the union team earlier this week with our proposal for cost share, following what we did last year in regard to PA152. Another meeting with the union is scheduled for Monday.
- Hired a new mechanic. Brandon Bellenger will start on July 7th. He has recently worked for Alger County Road Commission. His wife has taken a position in the Soo and they will be moving to the Soo.
- Emulsion was delivered and the AMZ/Durapatcher are out.
- Working with EUP Title on the transfer/sale of the property in Whitefish Township. The original deed has a clause to return the property to the state when the Road Commission no longer has use for it. Finding the appropriate person at the State level to release it is proving to be a challenge.
- The Chub Creek Bridge project is moving along, and we believe resolution has been reached.
- Paving on Mackinac Trail has started.
- 16 Mile Bridge replacement to start next week.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Award Fuel & Oil Bids - Manager Laitinen presented the bid results. It was noted that Autore/Shute had better overall pricing for all location except the Soo, but that their winter blend comes from Wisconsin rather than below the bridge. With the Ice Storm of 2025, this would have been an issue as the bridge was closed for significant stretches, which would have prevented delivery. The bid prices presented by Crystal Flash

were the low bids, however, their over rack prices were higher. Blarney Castle was lower than Autore for the Soo garage only. Manager Laitinen recommended the bid for fuel be awarded to Autore/Shute for their respective areas.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the fuel bid to Autore/Shute.

MOTION CARRIED

For the Bulk Lubricant bids, Safety Clean bid out Performance Plus products but did not include the required letter of equivalency. Texas Refinery bids synthetics that we have been testing, but their pricing is considerably higher. Northern Energy bid out the Chevron products per the specs and were the low bid. Recommendation was made to award to Northern Energy.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the bulk lubricant bid to Northern Energy.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported it was noted at the St. Mary's River Keepers' meeting that there is no 911 service in the area of the river that crosses beyond the Canadian Border. Boat at your own risk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to "stay safe". The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman