

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 October 9, 2025.

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

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

ABSENT: Clerk Sillers.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$182,231.89 and Vouchers in the amount of \$456,273.39 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 September 25, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Foreman Johnston

- Ditching and culvert replacement on Balson Road.
- Getting ready for winter.

Foreman Goodman

- Finished up the 6' culvert on Betsy River Road.
- Preparing for winter. Getting snow markers out and ice-sand put up.

Foreman Johnson

- Getting gravel roads and shoulders of paved roads shaped up.
- Getting ready for winter.

Engineer Boileau

- Officially done with construction season.
- Finishing up a punch list for Chub Creek Bridge. Should be re-opened next week.

Clerk Sillers

- No Report.

Union President Bumstead

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Working on the last three state trucks for winter.
- Looking at truck specs for the next purchase.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Working on organizing parts room.
- Contracted work for repair to the Kinross Salt Shed door repair.
- Did some garage inspections with Sam Sanmiguel from CRASIF. Other than some small items to clean up, he was overall impressed with our facilities.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Received notification from CRASIF that the organization has made their Honor Roll. This award is directly based on our safety record and maintaining a modification factor of less than 1. Thank you to everyone for keeping our work areas safe and congratulations on receiving this award again this year.
- The big news relates to the passing of the State Budget and getting the road funding passed. CCRC should see approximately \$3.3M in additional funding which is written to grow slightly in subsequent years. Still closely monitoring the state as the details of the sources and formulas for distribution get published. Senator Damoose and Representative Fairbairn were champions for rural road commissions in listening to representatives of road commissions explain how the different pieces of the proposals would affect the rural road commissions versus the urban road commissions.
- Congratulations to Frank Marsh. He will be taking over as Parts Manager when Cecil retires.
- Working to post and schedule interviews for winter night operations.
- Monday, October 20th we will return to eight hour shifts.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Authorization to get bids for new trucks in 2026 - Manager Laitinen requested authorization to get in front of a potential run on trucks caused by the funding approval. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Laitinen to go to bid for up to six new trucks for 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported he will be absent for the next meeting for knee surgery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Office Manager Livermore expressed appreciation for Manager Laitinen, Ed Noyola with CRA, and Mackinac County Road Commissioner Lester Livermore for their late nights and work with Lansing Legislators in getting the road funding passed. Each of them spent several late nights in communications regarding the potential outcomes related to pieces of the road funding packages and how it would affect rural and urban county road commissions. Manager Laitinen noted this was a group effort and included input from various other road commission managers, including Doug Mills from Baraga, Dirk Heckman from Mackinac, Burt Thompson from Antrim, and Darrell Cass from Menominee. He noted that it was a spreadsheet created by Burt Thompson that gave our legislators proof there was an error in the package.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Sprague expressed appreciation for the work done with the legislature to get the funding needed. Commissioner Moser gave a "good job" in helping to get the funding passed, noting this will allow the road commissions to plan. Chairman Gagnon echoed the

sentiment and wished everyone to "stay safe". The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman