

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 February 26, 2026.

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

PRESENT: Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Livermore, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Johnson, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk McLean, Clerk Sillers.

ABSENT: Commissioner Sprague, Engineer Boileau, Union President Bumstead.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$247,427.81 and Vouchers in the amount of \$315,503.36 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 12, 2026, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Received the MERS year-end Statement of Fiduciary Net Position. From a performance perspective, 2025 was a good year. Both the contributions by the road commission and the Net Investment Income were in excess of the benefits paid. The beginning balance for 2025 was \$15.2 Million and the ending balance was \$17.6M. With a \$2.4M increase in the balance, it will be interesting to see what the percent funded looks like when the actuarial valuation is published.
- The MTF distribution report for January receipts to be paid to the road commission in March was produced this morning. The timing of the new road funding package passed in October indicated the additional cents per gallon at the pump would begin being collected in January 2026 and should correct the 20% decrease in MTF road commissions experienced from October to December. The report received this morning shows a continued decrease in year over year funds of 17%, which is approximately \$136,000 **less** than what was received this time last year.

Foreman Johnston

- Slicer and blower out unplugging roads.
- Plowing every day.

Foreman Goodman

- South Rudyard roads were plugged. Got the new blower out and winged back where we could.

Foreman Johnson

- Still winter - blower out on roads.

Engineer Boileau

- No report.

Clerk Sillers

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Bumstead

- No report.

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Garage and computer repairs.
- Upfitting bids opened and working to tabulate.
- Emission issues.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- There was an announcement from the EPA regarding emissions and a reversal of an endangerment finding. Discussion ensued.
- Looking to hire one more mechanic. This week we filled one position.
- Received draft plans for the Three Mile Road project from M-129 to Riverside Drive. This project will be funded and completed by the Tribe. Our role will be to permit the project only. Discussion ensued.
- The new revenue estimates from ORTA were published, projecting our portion of the MTF as up for the year, but our first check to be received will be nearly 20% under. Still waiting to see the new funding.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Sugar Island Township road agreement - Village Road between Eastshore Drive and East Terminus of Village Road. Estimated township cost \$244,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the Sugar Island Township Road Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

- b.) Budget Amendment #2 - Manager Laitinen reviewed the changes in the budget amendment as passed on December 31, 2025 with the changes noted in Amendment #2. Office Manager Livermore reported on a conversation with Mike Grentz regarding this issue. After passing Budget Amendment #1, several MDOT estimates for 2025 projects were submitted. The expenses and funding for these estimates needed to be captured in 2025 and the results of those entries significantly changed revenue and expenditures. An amended budget must be passed prior to year end, however, because the variance from the original amendment is material, presenting this amendment with explanation provides transparency.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve Budget Amendment #2.

MOTION CARRIED

- c.) Purchase 2017 Ford F250 Shop Truck \$31,200 - Manager Laitinen reviewed the specifications of this truck and its location. This is a replacement truck for the mechanic in Pickford. The current cash flow includes payments to start for new trucks in March, however the trucks and financing for the new trucks will not be processed for a couple of months. This is a line-

item trade-off, and the shop truck will be purchased with cash.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to authorize the purchase of the shop truck.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioner's Comments

- Commissioner Traynor it's nice and quiet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Clerk Sillers added a reminder to all staff. When an accident occurs, even if there is no damage to our truck or the other drive "doesn't think it is necessary", law enforcement must be called. It is against the law to leave the scene of an accident.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to "stay safe".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman