

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 10, 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, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Foreman Johnson, and Clerk McLean.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Foreman Johnston, Clerk Christensen, and Union President Eavou.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that Payroll in the amount of \$254,752.40 and Vouchers in the amount of \$508,6111.68 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 March 25, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Reported for Clerk Christensen the annual Spring Safety meeting will be at Bruce Township Hall on April 29th. The meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. with MSHA training. The safety meeting portion will follow. Lunch will be provided.

Foreman Johnston

- No report

Foreman Goodman

- No report

Foreman Johnson

- Still in winter operations. Hoping to see a change in weather to allow for maintenance on gravel roads.

Engineer Boileau

- No report

Clerk Christensen

- Report given by Office Manager Livermore.

Union President Eavou

- No report

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Attended the Highway Conference. Planned to view the new Peterbilt, but it wasn't at the show. Spent some time talking with the representative.
- Working on garage inspections.
- Updating equipment records.
- Testing GPS units. Discussion ensued.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Last week's ice storm had a minimal effect on the Road Commission's operations. Areas, near the Lake Huron shore, were hit harder. The major issue faced by the road commission was fuel related. Many of our garage sites have their own fuel islands and generators to retrieve fuel, however, the storm caused two subsequent events that were unforeseen. One was a run on fuel at the stations geographically located closest to the bridge, causing those stations to run out of fuel. The second was authorities closing the Mackinac Bridge for a period of time great enough to cause a fuel shortage reaching farther north. Our own fuel level at the time of the storm was low, in anticipation of a fuel delivery that was affected by the storm. Through prior planning with other local agencies, the road commission is an emergency hub for fuel when power outages prevent those agencies from being able to fuel, however, in the case of a fuel shortage, we had to be mindful of our own operations. Our fuel company worked with us to get fuel delivered by peddle truck to get us through until our tanker could arrive and we worked with the local agencies as a source of last resort for emergency needs.
- Attended the Highway Conference. All in all, it was a good one.
- The State Maintenance Contract Negotiations continue. We have reached a tentative agreement on several items. Currently working on the dispute resolution clause.
- CRA is working with MDOT on a bridge modeling program.
- The association is also working to develop a local road research board.
- The Chub Creek Bridge project has started. During the excavation process, an old fuel pipeline was discovered. This is the line that was established decades ago that runs from St. Ignace to the old base in Kincheloe. The pipe was located below the surface of the road and above the culvert. The project schedule was minimally affected by the removal of this pipe. MDOT has an environmental process for these types of discoveries and their removal. The pipe was drained of about 700 gallons of liquid, cut, capped, and removed with no spills. Financial impact discussion ensued.
- Last week at the Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac Conservation Dinner, Engineer Boileau was presented with an award as Cooperator of the Year for the work done on Pennington Road last year. During her acceptance comments, she recognized the work of our crew on this project.
- MDOT guardrail training is next week, and we have a couple of people scheduled to attend.
- Next week out of office for CRA/Wetland/JATC meetings in Lansing followed by some vacation time. While in Lansing, scheduled meetings with some of the legislators.
- Tentatively, weather permitting, the crew will move to 10-hour days on Monday, April 21st.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Purchase used 2023 CASE 821G Loader - \$223,000 Miller Bradford: Manager Laitinen recommended the purchase of the loader from Miller Bradford. The Road Commission has rented this loader during the last two winter seasons in the state salt barn. Financing discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to purchase the used loader from Miller Bradford.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported still waiting for more to come on the garbage/recycling arrangement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to "stay safe". The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman