

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 August 14, 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, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Johnson, Union President Bumstead, Clerk McLean, Clerk Sillers, and Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Fleet Manager Donajkowski

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

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 \$187,173.98 and Vouchers in the amount of \$745,343.62 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit. Office Manager Livermore noted the major expenditures were health insurances, MERS, Valley Truck for two truck frame rebuilds, and contracted engineering and inspection services.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 31, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the special meeting minutes from July 31, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Met with Jessica Fitzgerald from Morgan Stanley regarding the performance of our OPEB trust. As of July 31st, the trust has exhibited net investment growth of approximately \$470K. The market is projected to continue to perform strong for the remainder of the year.

Foreman Johnston

- County Mowing is complete. Finishing up the state mowing.
- Doing some cross pipe replacement on Sugar Island.
- Continuing on 14 Mile off of Riverside.
- Lots of roadside trees and stumps to remove.

Foreman Goodman

- Whitefish Township received a significant amount of rain. Continuing to work on washouts.
- Starting the M-221 storm drain project on Monday. Approximately 130' of pipe needs to be replaced due to a failure caused by a utility company boring through the pipe during line installation.

Foreman Johnson

- Continuing on Peasley Road. Finishing the sand lift today and starting the slope work next week.
- Drummond Island working on brushing Mead Island Road.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Sillers

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Bumstead

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Had a tractor/mower down for a bit due to tire damage caused by a boat anchor in the ditch.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- No report.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Received invitation to Road Manager meeting on September 9th at the MCRCSIP office. The meeting will include discussion on emergency management.
- Received notice of a lawsuit regarding access on Neebish Island. Bill Henn will be representing the road commission.
- Worked with Fleet Manager Donajkowski on emergency planning with Soo Township Fire.
- MDOT contract negotiations going well. Nine of seventeen items are tentatively agreed to. Should wrap up before deadline.
- Working on Sims Point Road on Drummond Island to create an acceptance to system. Conveyance is being drawn up.
- Somes Lane on Drummond has contacted the road commission regarding the small private road and desire to have it accepted on to the system. It's a narrow road with numerous residents. Discussion ensued.
- Some good news, it was announced at the Iowa State Fair that the EPA is calling on diesel manufacturers to update software with DEF base systems to coincide with 2027 rules. This would extend the four (4) hour delay to 100 hours for D-rate power reduction in plow trucks. This initiative has seen a push from by the farming industry lobby.
- Have a meeting today with EGLE to review job sites for soil erosion.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Surplus Equipment bids - Manager Laitinen reviewed the equipment that was deemed surplus/for sale with the board, noting the high bids for each piece. Recommendation was made to accept and award all bids to highest bidders.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award bids to highest bidders.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Annual Certification of Employee-related Conditions - Office Manager Livermore explained this form is required each year and that by 2/3 board vote, the road commission can exempt itself from the publicly funded health insurance contribution act, 2011 PA152.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Chairman Gagnon and Office Manager Livermore to sign the certification and indicate the road commission as "exempt".

MOTION CARRIED

- c. Change Officer Delegate for MERS Conference - Office Manager Livermore reported a schedule conflict with the MERS Conference and requested Clerk McLean be the replacement authorized officer delegate.

MOTION by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to name Clerk McLean as the officer delegate to attend the annual MERS conference

MOTION CARRIED

- d. South Pleasant Street design proposal from ROWE. Engineer Boileau joined the meeting. Information regarding the Township's plan to make Pleasant Street more parking and pedestrian friendly and the necessity for storm drainage testing was provided. This will be a 2026 engineering expenditure for the 2027 construction season.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Engineer Boileau to enter into the contracted engineering agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

- e. Support for Speed study - Dafter Township: West 10 Mile Road between Maple Road and Mackinac Trail. Engineer Boileau explained this area in Dafter Township had improperly placed speed signs in an area with no traffic control order (TCO). The township is requesting a speed study for the area with the desired outcome to be an enforceable TCO less than prima facia.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to support the request for a speed study.

MOTION CARRIED

- f. Drummond Island Township Road Agreement - asphalt paving Cream City Point Road between existing end of pavement and the eastern terminus of the same road AND Loon Point Loop. Township estimated cost \$650,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the Drummond Island Township Road Agreement for Cream City Point.

MOTION CARRIED

- g. Drummond Island Township Road Agreement - patching of pavement deserving improvement (approximately 1,500 square yards). Township estimated cost \$150,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Drummond Island Township Road Agreement for patching of various paved areas.

MOTION CARRIED

- h. Monarch Butterfly permitting - Manager Laitinen presented information regarding the butterfly and its habitat and the work CRA has done to get permitting for Road Commissions to perform road ROW work. Requested authorization to enter a three-year permit.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Manager Laitinen to enter a three-year permit for ROW work in monarch butterfly habitat.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported nothing new at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to “stay safe”. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman