

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 24, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Moser called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Livermore, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Johnson, and Union President Eavou.

ABSENT: Chairman Gagnon, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk Christensen, and Clerk McLean.

GUEST PRESENT: County Commissioner Jim Traynor and Bay Mills Resident Franklin Benson.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser that Payroll in the amount of \$208,273.97 and Vouchers in the amount of \$459,096.30 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 April 10, 2025 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bay Mills resident Franklin Benson addressed the board regarding concerns from the Friends of the Bay Mills Access Road regarding the boat launch and kayak access planned to be installed in the location. A point of concern is addressed was the perceived width of the ROW and the actual. Manager Laitinen addressed the small amount of information available at this time, noting that many of the details are still in the planning phase. Manager Laitinen noted the permits required by several agencies for this install will require detailed plans to be provided. Discussion ensued.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Cold patch is ordered. It will be produced early next week with a tentative pick-up date of Wednesday.
- Strait Area District meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 at Audie's
- Audit started on Monday.
- Working on Act 51 and making progress. Have been granted a filing extension until June 30.

Foreman Johnston

- Spring work - pulling snow markers and grading roads where we can.
- Finding a few bad pipes and watching for washouts.
- Working with MDOT on identifying some small state work.

Foreman Goodman

- No report

Foreman Johnson

- Same as Soo.

- Putting winter equipment in storage and prepping equipment for summer.

Engineer Boileau

- No report

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Union President Eavou

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- No report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Spring Cleanup.
- Getting annual bids out.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Continuing to watch the road funding. House Bills 4180-4187 were left pretty much unchanged when they were passed at the House. They are held by the Senate Appropriation Committee. The governor has indicated she will sign when they reach her desk. This funding would significantly impact the Road Commission overall budget.
- Attended CRA/Wetland/EGLE meeting while in Lansing last week as well as met with Representative Prestin.
- Senator Slotkin contacted our office to provide information regarding the application process for earmarked projects for consideration.
- AIS Equipment sent invitation to the annual trap shoot fundraiser in Reed City on May 14th.
- The summer schedule of four ten-hour days went into effect on Monday.
- The annual safety meeting is next week.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Culvert Bid award - Manager Laitinen reviewed the types of culvert pipes included in the bid. ETNA was overall low bid on plastic pipes and Cadillac Culvert was low bid on metal pipe. Manager Laitinen recommended the initial truck load quantity be awarded to the low bidders and authorization for additional quantities of plastic pipe be purchased in the local ETNA and Pickford Builder yards.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the initial truck load quantity to the low bidders and authorization for additional quantities of plastic pipe be purchased in the local ETNA and Pickford Builder yards.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Whitefish Township purchase agreement - Manager Laitinen presented the board with information regarding the potential sale of the old Paradise garage site. Whitefish Township would like to purchase the site. This sale does not remove the Road Commission's environmental responsibility. Manager Laitinen reviewed some of the history around the site and the issues with it. We have also received word on private purchase interest. The township would like to have this property as it is adjacent to the township hall and would make for a beautiful park and township gathering place. The township is also seeking Brownfield assistance.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Manager Laitinen to sign a sale agreement when agreeable terms have been reached.

MOTION CARRIED

- c. Anderson Tackman - Board Authorization for signature of Preliminary Communication
- d. Anderson Tackman - Board Authorization for signature of Engagement Letter

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize Office Manager Livermore and Vice-Chairman Moser to sign the Preliminary Communication and Engagement Letter with Anderson Tackman as needed.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported there is a halt on the material handling plan and been receiving calls from local farmers regarding load limits.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Vice-Chairman Moser adjourned at 8:50 A.M

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Charls Moser
Vice-Chairman