

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 July 17, 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 Johnston, Foreman Johnson, Union President Bumstead, and Chief Mechanic Marsh.

ABSENT: Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Clerk McLean, and Clerk Christensen.

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 \$183,608.41 and Vouchers in the amount of \$556,109.74 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 1, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Met with the garages for open enrollment and have received most of the forms. Should be able to provide Acrisure with the documentation needed to complete the process for the August 1st effective date.
- Mike Grentz with Anderson Tackman will be here for the Audit Exit meeting immediately following the regularly scheduled July 31st board meeting.
- Our Employee Assistance Program provider (Northstar) has been replaced/acquired by Total Care EAP. Information has been included with pay stubs and we will provide more information in future pay periods.

Foreman Johnston

- 12 Mile Bypass road is almost complete. The work is ahead of schedule.
- State mowing is almost finished. Beginning the mowing on the county roads.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report

Foreman Johnson

- Replacing culverts.
- Drummond Island is brushing and ditching.
- Mower is working on the county roads.

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Union President Bumstead

- Nothing new to report.

Clerk McLean

- No report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Keeping up on repairs to mowers and tractors.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Working with parts clerk on shopping vendors. We are seeing some price increases due to tariffs.
- Worked on equipment rental rates with Office Manager Livermore.
- Prepping to sell used equipment.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Working with DNR to get pit property on M123 withdrawn from the Timber Program. Still have some hurdles to clear and working to find the correct contact at the state level.
- CRA released the road improvement progress report. It caught significant attention and media coverage.
- Working on negotiation items with MDOT. Coordinating with Oakland County to draft language addressing the Hold Bank Funds and their distribution.
- Attended MI Wetland meeting virtually.
- CRA and MCRC SIP meetings are next week in Mt. Pleasant.
- Engineer Boileau has posted "Not Through Trucks" on Centerline in Rudyard, M48 Business Spur and Mackinac Trail, due to severe damage to pavement. This closure will like last through the end of August.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. MERS Delegates - Manager Laitinen requested board approval to send two delegates to the annual MERS conference. One delegate is an officer. The other delegate is an employee. Office Manager Livermore volunteered to be the officer representative.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Office Manager Livermore and an employee delegate elected by the union to attend the MERS conference in October at the Grand Traverse Resort.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Purchase 1 of 2 graders from Menominee County Road Commission - Office Manager Livermore explained that the findings of an internal audit of the fixed assets uncovered missing official board approval for the purchase of the first grader in May which was not recorded in the minutes. Minutes from January 16th reflect an initial discussion with the board regarding the graders with board approval to pursue obtaining more information in anticipation of purchase. The minutes of May 8th reflect mention of the purchase of the grader as one of the large expenditures included in A/P. Manager Laitinen explained that typically a purchase like this would have gone to bid and there would have been a bid award requiring board approval. With this purchase, it was an agency-to-agency sale of used equipment with the price of the equipment reflective of a paid down lease.
- c. Purchase of the second grader from Menominee County Road Commission in Fall 2025 (est. October) - Manager Laitinen requested the board to provide official approval to be recorded in the minutes for the purchase of the first grader from MCRC and

approval for the purchase of the second grader to take place in the fall of this year.

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize the purchase of two graders from Menominee County Road Commission in 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

- d. Increase the minimum balance held at Central Savings Bank in the Payroll Tax Clearing account. Office Manager Livermore explained the Road Commission maintains a minimum balance of \$100 in the Payroll tax clearing account. The last order of deposit slips was over \$100, creating a risk of overdraft. The slips are ordered through Central Savings Bank and the charge appears on the next statement. This does not need board action and is for informational purposes.

County Commissioners' Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor inquired about garbage in the ROW on Gogomain Road. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

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

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman