

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 27, 2025.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Johnston, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Office Manager Livermore, Foreman Johnson, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Commissioner Sprague, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh Clerk McLean, and Union President Eavou.

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 \$254,859.90 and Vouchers in the amount of \$319,466.70 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 13, 2025, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Livermore

- Year-end prep work.
- My email was compromised this week. DS Tech looked at 30 days of sign-in logs and didn't see any malicious direct login attempt. It appears only my email account was affected, however an email with a link was sent under my name to a large number of people, including people not affiliated with the Road Commission directly.
- Working on financing for the trucks. More to be discussed in New Business.
- The Earned Sick Time Act passed and went into effect on 2/25/25 with some minor changes. For now, this only effects the

administrative staff. The act provides that any collective bargaining agreements in effect prior to the date of the act will push of the start date of ESTA for those individuals covered under the CBA.

Foreman Johnston

- Catching up on slicing, winging, and blowing back snowbanks.
- Removed the snow along the I-75 barrier wall. This involves eight trucks working behind the grader.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report.

Foreman Johnson

- Same catchup work as the Soo.
- Spent some time catching up on maintenance in the garage.

Engineer Boileau

- Had the pre-construction meeting for Chub Creek. The anticipated start/closure date is 3/17/25.

Clerk Christensen

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Eavou

- No report.

Clerk McLean

- No report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Took a look at the new Western Star trucks that were delivered. The truck order should be delivered in full by the end of April. The earliest the trucks can get into the shop for upfitting is November.
- One of the rebuilt trucks is back and on the road.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Received a letter and a check from Bay Mills Indian Community. They have awarded the road commission a portion of the 2% funding. We appreciate the relationship we have developed with them and look forward to future projects with them.
- Been involved in an email conversation regarding the imposing of weight restrictions. Several western counties will be implementing weight restrictions on Monday. Our roads do not

warrant the restrictions yet, but we will start monitoring closely.

- Watching state legislative activity. Both democrats and republicans are discussing road funding with support for additional funding by the governor's office. The proposed funding is greatly needed and may affect how much we can accomplish this year.
- ESTA was approved with some changes that affect small employers. We will have to make changes to the timing of our front loading of hours. The cap on accrued time has been removed.
- Received an invitation to attend the next Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac conservation meeting.
- MDOT will be hosting guardrail maintenance training. We will have a couple of employees attend.
- There has been a legislative amendment to the definition of "Work Zone", providing clarification and more narrowly defined elements of the work zone.
- Received notification from our drug testing provider that they will be certified to do oral fluid testing in the near future. This is something we will look into as well as define what our standing order will be.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Support for Tilson Road Speed Study - Manager Laitinen presented the Rudyard Township Resolution for the speed study.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to support the Rudyard Township request for a speed study on Tilson Road.

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Support for Tower Road Speed Study - Manager Laitinen presented the Bay Mills Township Resolution for the speed study.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to support the Bay Mills Township request for a speed study on Tower Road.

MOTION CARRIED

- c. Loan Bid Award - Manager Laitinen presented a summary of the loan bids received from Huntington Bank, Central Savings Bank, and 1st National Bank of St. Ignace. He presented the terms received in each bid, noting that Huntington provided the best rate, but required annual payments with no option for early payoff. Central Savings offered a bid that included an origination fee, a tiered early payoff penalty, and the highest rate. 1st National of St. Ignace offered terms with no origination fee, no fee for early payoff, and a rate lower than Central Savings. Manager Laitinen noted information came from the USDA, but that the terms contained within the local bids would prevent the USDA from being

able to grant a loan. The recommendation is to award the bid to 1st National Bank of St. Ignace.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to award the financing of the eight Western Star trucks to 1st National Bank of St. Ignace.

MOTION CARRIED

d. Reaffirm Policy #5 - Board Travel: Manager Laitinen reviewed the policy with the board and recommended the policy be reaffirmed.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to reaffirm Policy #5 - Board Travel.

MOTION CARRIED

e. Approve change to Policy #14 - Township Cost Sharing: Manager Laitinen reviewed the policy and noted the addition under Brine cost share that all invoices be presented to the Road Commission in the year of service.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve the change to Policy #14 - Township Cost Sharing.

MOTION CARRIED

f. Reaffirm Policy #17 - Electronic Transfers: Manager Laitinen reviewed the policy with the board and recommended the policy be reaffirmed.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to reaffirm Policy #17 - Electronic Transfers.

MOTION CARRIED

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor noted attendance in a meeting where EGLE will be responsible for regulating garbage in the tri-county area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Moser noted a conversation with a friend, complimenting the crew on the condition of the highways in Chippewa County.

Chairman Gagnon wished everyone to "Stay Safe". The meeting adjourned at 8:53 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman