

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 December 19, 2024.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:01 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Johnson, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Engineer Boileau, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Foreman Goodman, Union President Eavou, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Clerk McLean.

ABSENT: Commissioner Sprague.

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 the December 19, 2024, Payroll in the amount of \$282,793.47 and Vouchers in the amount of \$654,354.06 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 December 5, 2024, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- NONE

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Budget training with Clerk Livermore.
- Coordinating electrical repairs from accident last week.
- Errors in the 2025 budget were identified this morning and requested the Public Hearing be rescheduled.

Foreman Johnston

- Crew busy keeping up with weather.
- Sugar Island finishing up widening the roads after cleaning up from snow fall.

Foreman Goodman

- Thanked the crew for doing a good job.
- Thanked mechanics for keeping the equipment up and running.

Foreman Johnson

- In winter operation mode.
- Thanked crew for working the long hours without a day off.

Engineer Boileau

- Wrapping up year end.
- Bridge reports are updated.

Clerk Christensen

- Provided the board with a copy of information provided to fleet regarding the new statute regarding the 200' rule for a plow truck in operation.
- Year end prep work.

Clerk McLean

- Month end and year end prep.

Union President Eavou

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Spent most of the last week identifying damages caused by last week's electrical accident.
- Working on data cleanup in inventory system.

Clerk Livermore

- Attended the CRA Legal Symposium. Good event.
- Time to register for UP Road Builders in Marquette. The conference will be Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7. The agenda is not posted yet.
- The highway conference will be Tuesday, March 25 - Thursday, March 27th at the Lansing Center. Registration will open the first week of January.
- Worked on year end budget projections with Office Manager Decker, to learn process and factors affecting projection.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Helping Fleet Manager identify damages from electrical accident.
- Working on equipment as needed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- On December 6th, a truck from our neighboring facility pulled out with the dump box raised. The box caught the overhead power

lines, breaking a 3-way primary to our building and the pole, tearing the line out of the transformer. This resulted in a high voltage back feed of electricity to the building, causing damage to the generator, fuel system, some computers and printers, GFI outlets and more. Surge protectors did their job but were destroyed in the process. The fleet manager and mechanic are identifying equipment affected by this incident to list on an insurance claim. A claim has been filed with our insurance carrier.

- Received notice from EGLE grating a permit for the 12 Mile Bypass road.
- Watching the Lame Duck session in the legislature. Nothing is likely to happen after today.
- Attended the CRA negotiating meeting and regular board meeting. Ron Kendall with CRA has given his notice of resignation and will be accepting a position with his former employer, Representative Tom Barret. He will be working with the House Transportation Committee in Washington D.C.
- Wished the crew and staff a Merry Christmas. Thanked the crew and recognized their dedication with some having worked 13+ consecutive days.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Financing of CAT Excavator.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the agreement to finance a 2024 CAT 325 Excavator, Serial number TEL40561 for a total of \$362,284.00 with a monthly payment of \$6,846.30.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Authorization for Clerk Livermore to sign CAT Resolution.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to authorize Clerk Livermore to sign the CAT Resolution as necessary for the financing of the 2024 CAT 325 Excavator.

MOTION CARRIED

c. RESOLUTION 2024-23: 16 Mile Road over Little Munuscong River.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to approve RESOLUTION 2024-23.

MOTION CARRIED by UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

- d. Set Meeting date for Special Meeting regarding the 2024 Budget Amendment #1 and reschedule the Public Hearing. Both meetings were scheduled for Tuesday, December 31st, with the Public Hearing to start at 1:00 p.m. and the Special Meeting to amend the 2024 budget to immediately follow.

OLD BUSINESS

None

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported under-age youth have discovered a location near his property to host Saturday night gatherings. He has contacted law enforcement in hopes of discouraging this behavior in the area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Chairman Gagnon wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Grievance #B1

- Manager Laitinen reviewed a disciplinary letter provided to a mechanic regarding a situation involving the mechanic and fleet manager. The discipline administered was a five (5) day suspension of the mechanic in lieu of termination.
- The Grievance Committee provided Manager Laitinen with a Grievance Report acknowledging the events of the day but expressing disagreement with the punishment, requesting a full reversal of the suspension.
- Manager Laitinen countered the request with a three (3) day suspension and last chance agreement that was rejected.
- Prior to the board meeting, Manager Laitinen countered with a reduction of the suspension to 20 hours (1/2 the original suspension). This was also rejected.
- Commission Moser commented regarding the situation.
- Chairman Gagnon commented.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon authorizing Manager Laitinen to settle this grievance with a suspension of 20 hours, and if an agreement cannot be reached to bring this grievance to the next step.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Gagnon wished everyone "Stay Safe" and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman