

**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 21, 2023.

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

**PRESENT:** Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Rye, Foreman Goodman, Engineer Boileau, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Union President Cheney.

**ABSENT:** Chief Mechanic Marsh.

**GUEST PRESENT:** County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis.

**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 \$196,289.45 and Vouchers in the amount of \$296,756.53 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from December 7, 2023 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Nothing New.

Superintendent Erickson

- Winter maintenance & gravel maintenance.
- Tree trimming and patching.

Foreman Goodman

- Same as Sault.

Foreman Rye

- Nothing new to report.

Engineer Boileau

- Now obligated for four Federal Aid projects for 2024.
- Took requests for design proposals, only one firm submitted - Soils and Structures.
- Bridge proposals went out. Received proposals from only three vendors. Recommending acceptance of the proposal from Row as it had the greatest detail.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to accept Engineers recommendation and award the bridge proposal to Row.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Clerk Christensen

- Nothing new to report.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Worked with CRA staff final edits of informational videos on state-wide broadband installation for sub-contractors. Traffic control will be added to the videos and possible bonding requirements.
- Received the decision form the Administrative Law Judge regarding the MERS appeal. The decision was not outcome we were looking for. As the employer, there is nothing more we can do to assist in the granting of the on-duty disability pension as the ruling of the ALJ is final, per the "plan document."
- Received final official notice from MDOT on the cancelation of funding for the Federal Aid Buy-out for 2025.
- Received a note from MCRCSIP on changes to PERA. The biggest change to note is that as an employer we will be required to provide the union with employee information every 90 days.
- The date for the February Straits Area Council meeting has been moved out to the second week of February.
- Highway conference is March 19-21, 2024.

- A FOIA request for information regarding non-motorized expenditures was received by our organizations as well as numerous other road agencies statewide. MCRCSIP is working on a response to be used by all affected, providing the requester with an unvarying answer.
- Received from EGLE a draft of the language for permitting as it relates to newly enacted stream mitigation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A.) Frost Patrol Agreement with MSP - Manager Laitinen explained to the board this is an annual agreement with MSP, proving patrolling of roads during frost restriction. The annual agreement cost approximately \$8,000 last year. Manager Laitinen expressed his appreciation for the work and cooperation the agency receives from Trooper Brown.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Laitinen to sign the agreement with MSP.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- County Commissioner Traynor made comment regarding a meeting with local law enforcement agencies and the need to fill numerous employment positions with the prison system. He also offered to request a resolution from the county board regarding funding and work to be done next year on Mackinac Trail.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis extended words of gratitude to the crews for the road work done over the year and wished everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sprague wished everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Commissioner Moser noted some heavy equipment work being done on Tourist Road, noting "track marks" being left on the pavement.

Chairman Gagnon wished the crew MERRY CHRISTMAS and "stay safe." With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 A.M.

---

Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

---

Jeremy Gagnon  
Chairman