

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 September 14, 2023.

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

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Commissioner Moser, Engineer Boileau, Clerk Livermore.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that the September 14, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$172,260.50 and Vouchers in the amount of \$543,244.49 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 August 31, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Neebish Island fuel tank will be delivered next week and should be completed by the end of October.
- State salt delivery to begin October 2, 2023.

Superintendent Erickson

- Finishing up Village Rd.
- Wanted to thank Foreman Goodman for sending the patch crew to help with some patch work.
- The bridge crew also helped with fixing up the bridge on 16 Mile Rd. and did a nice job.
- Screen plant is getting ready to move next week.

Foreman Goodman

- Working on state mowing with Foreman Rye. Taqua Trail is looking good, approximately 1.1 miles left to finish.
- The crew changed a large pipe and did a great job.
- Been very impressed with the crew and the work they are getting done.

Foreman Rye

- Hauling winter sand to Drummond
- Finishing up mowing
- Still changing pipes and finishing up some routine maintenance.

Engineer Boileau

- No report

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Union President Cheney

- Really impressed with the new Auto Flagger. It is great to work with and easy to train people on. It has really enhanced the productivity and the awareness of the crews and drivers.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Received a new disc mower, so it will help with less down time.
- Everything is finalized for the auction.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- No report

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Helping with auction items
- Working on mowers
- Getting trucks ready for winter

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended the CRA meeting at the beginning of the week. Hot topics were Finance and Accounting software and PASER rating collection for local roads.
- Title work is back on Graham's Hill pit property, should close by the end of the month.
- Finishing up Maintenance contract items before fiscal year end Sept. 30.
- Attended an administrative law hearing with MERS regarding our disagreement about the disability requirements for a previous employee. Admin Law Judge gave each party six weeks to file written final arguments.

- Asked to speak in Mt. Pleasant at the communications seminar on the importance of monthly regional manager's meetings.
- Working out details with the International Bridge Authority to help in the event their plow truck goes down. Will be scheduling an on-site training for any of our drivers that may end up plowing on the bridge in an emergency.
- It appears that the previously proposed FHWA guidelines on sign and striping reflectivity are going to be coming back. Not sure of implementation date but it could mean significant cost in sign replacements.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Staffing - With the additional MDOT mowing would like to hire six additional employees. This will help to eliminate temporary employees. Three of the positions are replacements and three are new. Drummond Island-1 (replacement), Pickford-1 (replacement), Sault-2 (1 Replacement, 1 new), Goetzville -1 (new), Eckerman-1 (new)

MOTION by Commission Sprague **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to hire six full time employees.

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported that the Chippewa County Animal Shelter and Chippewa County Sheriffs Department are closer to a contract for their new buildings.
- Attended Drummond Island Township meeting, having issues with side by sides and four wheelers tearing up shoulders and destroying beaches. Working with DNR and Sheriff's Department to potentially get grants to obtain law enforcement presence on the island.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No comments

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 A.M.

Abby Christensen
Deputy Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gognon
Chairman