

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 August 17, 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, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen.

ABSENT: Superintendent Erickson, Engineer Boileau, Union President Cheney, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

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 the August 17, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$173,248.09 and Vouchers in the amount of \$365,641.56 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 August 3, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Received confirmation regarding the pension grant. Working with MERS to identify which division to deposit the funds to yield the greatest impact on the percentage of funding level. MERS should receive the funds on August 31.
- Attended the Rural and Ready meeting last week. Really good information was presented regarding identification of and dangers of narcotics in our area as well as information on the capabilities of the 800 MHz radio systems.

Superintendent Erickson

- No Report.

Foreman Goodman

- Mowers are out on county roads.
- Gravel is being placed on Tahqua Trail. Grubbing the last ½ mile.
- Finishing the brush-hog work on Wildcat Road.
- Next week work starts in Hulbert.

Foreman Rye

- Finishing shoulder work on M-80.
- Starting shoulder work on M-48.
- Brushwork on the islands

Engineer Boileau

- No Report.

Clerk Christensen

- Attended Rural and Ready.
- Sam SanMiguel from CRASIF, the work-comp insurance company was here last week. He visited a couple of work zones and observed the use of new automated flagging device as well as the work the AMZ crew was doing.
- Attended MIOSHA fall protection training.

Union President Cheney

- No Report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Working through the DEF issues on trucks. Identified a potential vendor to provide a service to clean filters. The cost to clean is around \$400 rather than a replacement cost of \$3,000-\$4,000.
- Working to identify items to be sold in a surplus equipment auction. More to come at a later meeting on this.
- Getting ready to ramp up for winter work.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Been demoing a couple of GPS units for vehicles. A rep was here for one and the unit had zero logged information. This has been the issue with the units we have used in the past. Looking at options.
- Got an opportunity to meet with three people from the EPA regarding the diesel emissions systems and the issues derating

posed during winter operations. They were very interested in hearing more about the problems faced by road commissions. New rules will be coming in 2027 that will be in our favor as they will allow the truck to run longer before losing power. This has the potential to allow a driver to finish the route or shift before the truck has to be brought to the shop for repairs. Also had an opportunity to speak with Senator Debbie Stabenow regarding the same issue. Her staff has been asked to learn more in an effort to identify another avenue of support.

- Met with Bay Mills, Forest Service, and DNR regarding erosion issues on Plantation Road hill. It was determined the issue has been caused by ATV wheel paths. The Road Commission abandoned this road several years ago and is not responsible for the correction of the erosion.
- Contacted by a CDL training school looking to establish a testing site in the area. Put them in contact with the EDC as the airport property has unused paved surfaces that could be used for this.
- Shared Sam SanMiguel's comments from his letter summarizing his work zone visit.

"While observing the crews in their daily operations I am very pleased to report all temporary traffic control signs were properly placed per MMUTCD regulations, all employees were wearing the proper PPE for the jobs at task, and all traffic regulators were performing their duties in a professional manor. I was very impressed on how you were able to incorporate the Automated Flagger to perform multiple operations within the same lane closure (Shouldering operations along with an AMZ/Dura Patching Operation). There was a lot of moving parts to today's operations. All foreman and crew leaders did an excellent job of planning, coordinating, and instructing, a true team effort. Well done!"

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Baker Side Road speed study - The Soo Township Board presented a resolution requesting a speed study be conducted by Michigan State Police on Baker Side Road from Three Mile Road to Six Mile Road. The current speed limit is in accordance with prima facie (55 mph). The residents are seeking to have the speed limit reduced. After the speed study, the limit will be set to the lesser of Prima Facie or the 85th percentile of speeds recorded in the study.

MOTION by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to request a speed study from MSP on Baker Side Road.

MOTION CARRIED

B.) Award Disc Mower Bid - Bids were accepted for the purchase of a new Disc Mower. Bids came in from Skinners at \$21,500 and Gaylor Thompson at \$21,650. The one from Skinners is identical to the one we currently own. The one from Gaylor Thompson has a better design with sacrificial break-a-way parts. Manager Laitinen recommended the bid be awarded to Gaylor Thompson.

MOTION by Commission Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to award the Disc Mower bid to Gaylor Thompson.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported the final drawings for the Dog Pound and Sheriff building are due tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman