

**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 4, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Timmer, Commissioner Moser, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Superintendent Erickson, Union President Cheney, Clerk Livermore, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Gagnon, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Foreman Rye, Clerk Christensen.

**GUEST PRESENT:** Sugar Island resident Jesse Knoll.

Chairman Timmer accepted the agenda as presented.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer that Payroll in the amount of \$151,514.86 and Vouchers in the amount of \$276,577.75 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 21, 2022 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to approve the special meeting minutes from July 28, 2022 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jesse Knoll from Sugar Island inquired about pending work to be done on Village Road. Manager Laitinen responded with information for planned tree/brush removal, ditch work to provide better drainage on far end, and new sand and gravel top for a portion. He noted delays in work have been attributed to supply chain issues for supplies such as culverts and work being completed on other state projects. The road commission has received the 50% down payment from the township and the plan is to have the work completed in this season. Jesse finished the conversation with complementary words regarding the late John Mikolowski, stating "it will be difficult to find anyone who will work as hard for the island and take as much care in the work being done."

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- Completed the first submission to MDOT under the new reporting system. It seems to have gone OK and does not appear to be as difficult as first thought.
- MTF for June was received and was up from \$621K last month to \$680K this month. These funds are for gas tax from June when fuel prices were over \$5.00 per gallon. This constant fluctuation in MTF with no discernable reasoning continues to make budgeting a challenge.
- Working on a six-month review and process of the Act 51 with Clerk Livermore as part of training.
- New fuel pumps will be delivered next week for Drummond Island and Goetzville.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy putting gravel on the shoulders of M-129.
- Mower is out on gravel roads trimming sides.
- Finishing up some patching after washouts.

Foreman Goodman

- No Report

Foreman Rye

- No Report

Engineer Boileau

- No Report

Clerk Christensen

- No Report

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended MCRCSIP annual meeting. Last year's investment performance allowed for refunds to be distributed.
- Attended F&HR Meeting - 2023 conference will be at Park Place in Traverse City May 16, 2022 to May 18, 2023.
- Worked with Office Manager Decker on new fuel reports from new system.
- Completed annual Work Comp Audit.
- A redemption hearing is scheduled for this month for our open work comp case.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Everything is normal. Deliveries are sometimes normal and sometimes delayed.

**MANAGER' S REPORT**

- Thanked the board for scheduling and attending a short notice special meeting and approving resolutions necessary for bridge bundling applications. The Road Commission needed to commit to 20% of the cost for two structures, one being a large structure on Mackinac Trail over the Pine River.
- Followed up with BIA regarding their 50% of the cost of the Six Mile bridge. Received an email indicating the funding has been approved and is waiting for the federal distribution of funds. The project is approximately 50% complete. There were some timing and construction routing issues related to the delivery of materials.
- Working on a Resolution for Dix Point Road certification.
- Doing some historical research on McNitt Act as it relates to 19 Mile Road. Owners on the abandoned section are being denied access by another land owner closer to M-129. The abandonment happened sometime in the 1950's.
- Continuing to investigate the drainage issue on Betsy River Road. Next week we will be sending a drone up in the area to assist in locating a potential dam in the area creating the water problem.
- Attended Straits Area Council. A letter of support requesting exemption from PA152 (Healthcare hard caps) is being drafted to give to CRA.
- We have confirmation of our Federal Aid Buyout for next year.
- Reviewing a draft of the Disaster Recovery Play Book.
- Invited to participate on the panel in Mt. Pleasant in December regarding county wide millage for roads.
- Sending in a request (again) for a speed study on Scenic Drive (north of the Cozy Corners restaurant).

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Proposed Policy #26 - Signs in the Right of Way - Manager Laitinen presented a draft policy outlining the size, location, and removal of signs (political and other general).

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to accept and adopt Policy #26 - Signs in the Right of Way.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Culvert Replacement at Gaines Highway Bid Award - Manager Laitinen presented information regarding an MDOT sub-contract for replacement of a culvert in the Northbound Off-ramp of I-75 at Gaines Highway. Bacco was the low bid at \$100,000.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Timmer to award the sub-contract for replacement of the culvert and pavement on the Northbound Off-ramp at Gaines Highway.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Jesse Knoll commented on supply and delivery issues he has encounter.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

- Chairman Timmer commented the mowing of Ranger Road looks good.

**MOTION CARRIED**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Richard Timmer  
Chairman