

**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 April 27, 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, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Chief Mechanic Marsh, Union President Cheney, Foreman Rye, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

**ABSENT:** None

**GUEST PRESENT:** County Commissioner Jim Traynor, Trout Lake Trustee Dave Hillman, Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis, 14 Mile Road Resident Dan Buhro.

Manager Laitinen requested an addition to the agenda, item 10d. Loader Purchase.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon to accept the agenda with the addition of item 10d.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Chairman Gagnon that Payroll in the amount of \$183,734.64 and Vouchers in the amount of \$131,262.72 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 April 13, 2023 and place them on file.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dan Buhro from 14 Mile Road inquired about any upcoming proposals to improve 14 Mile Road. Manager Laitinen affirmed conversation with the township regarding improving this road with a lift and widening and potential paving in the future has happened but that at this time there is not a signed Township Road agreement. The work to complete the bridge removal and by-pass will take precedent.

Township Supervisor Davis thanked everyone for the fast response to repair the 23 Mile Road washout that occurred during the quick thaw.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Office Manager Decker

- No Report.

Superintendent Erickson

- Thank you to the crew for taking care of all the washouts. They did a great job.
- Working on the gravel roads where we can.
- Getting requests for seasonal road maintenance.
- Working on cold patching.

Foreman Goodman

- Working on washouts and sink holes.
- Gravels are in rough shape and not dry enough yet to do much.

Foreman Rye

- Waiting for the weather to break so maintenance can be done.

Engineer Boileau

- Three new guardrails installations: Haypoint, 20 Mile, and 7 Mile/Scenic.
- Finalizing township agreements with Pickford and Kinross.
- Partnering with Bay Mills on four (4) grants for Tower Road and Safe Route to School.
- AEG permits coming in preparation for work in the ROW to install overhead lines.
- ROESE has hired a restoration company to clean up the work areas from last year.

Clerk Christensen

- The safety meeting was last week and went well.
- MSHA training is scheduled for next week.
- Working on nuisance permits. Many changes are coming. Waiting to see what they are.

Union President Cheney

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Met with the Brimley, Eckerman, and Rudyard garages.
- Service request forms are being pushed out for use.
- Bid request sent out for Sault Garage construction.
- Shop starting spring prep.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- For the next meeting, several office staff will be away for the annual F&HR conference. Time cards need to be entered and

approved by Thursday end of day prior to pay week. Paychecks will be processed by the Monday morning before payday.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- In between season transition work.
- Supply issues still affecting scheduling.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Effective April 26, 2023 a partial lift of seasonal weight restrictions was announced. Most paved roads have had the restriction lifted. The seasonal restriction is still in effect for all gravel roads.
- Last week was the CRA Board meeting and Wetland Board Meeting. Nothing new to share.
- Safety meeting went well. Thank you to Abby for putting that together.
- Entered into a discussion with Motorola regarding new radios. The company has a grant specialist to assist us in working through grants.gov.
- The Road Commission has been named in a small claims law suit.
- Rural Task Force will meet on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Thank you to everyone for the responsiveness regarding the washout on 15 Mile Road and 23 Mile Road. The crew was able to get 15 Mile open the next day. We've got a dedicated work force.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A.) **RESOLUTION 2023-10:** Michigan Local Pension Grant Application.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Manager Decker to submit a grant request to the Department of Treasury for the Michigan Local Pension Grant.

**MOTION CARRIED by UNANMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

- B.) Award 2023 Culvert Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the bids that were submitted and recommended the bid for HP Storm pipe from UP Concrete be rejected due to not meeting the bid specification.

**MOTION** by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to reject the HP Storm bid from UP Concrete, accept all other bids, order a small quantity of plastic pipe to have on hand, and authorize additional pipes to be picked up from the local vendors as needed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- C.) 2023 Blade Bid - Manager Laitinen reviewed the bids submitted as well as the difference between flame hardened and through hardened steel.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the blade bid to Truck and Trailer due to bid meeting all specs and their reputation and ability to provide products when needed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

D.) Loader Purchase - Manager Laitinen explained for the board the rental agreement we use for the loader kept in the State salt barn. The Loader on Drummond Island had a transmission failure that cannot be repaired. While small, this loader would be a good fit on the island.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to authorize the purchase of the loader from ALTA Equipment in the amount of \$171,704.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- NONE

**County Commissioners Comments**

- The Hospital appraisal has been ordered and is coming. A second appraisal will be coming as well.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

**ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Moser express gratitude to the crews for keeping up with the water issues.

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 A.M.

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Bobbie Livermore  
Clerk for the Board

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Jeremy Gagnon  
Chairman