

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 June 22, 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 Vice-President Besteman, Clerk Livermore, Fleet Manager Donajkowski.

ABSENT: Foreman Rye, Clerk Christensen.

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 \$173,183.65 and Vouchers in the amount of \$370,796.87 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 June 8, 2023 and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Audit Exit meeting is scheduled for today following this meeting.
- Attended UP Road Builders meeting last week.

Superintendent Erickson

- Busy changing culverts.
- Emergency repair to I-75 for a sink hole. Put an 8'x16' patch in. The crew did a really good job. Small one on the shoulder in another area was reported later and fixed.
- Brushhog out working to trim trees and ditches.
- AMZ working on west end in the Brimley area.

Foreman Goodman

- M-48 overpass - an expansion joint popped. MDOT has been working on it.
- Longtime employee, Neil Uponen is retiring today.
- Roadside mowing is starting in Brimley and moving toward Rudyard.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Engineer Boileau

- Almost done with the Shipwreck site. All Striped.
- Today starting to crush and shape Fairview.

Clerk Christensen

- No Report.

Union President Cheney (presented by Vice-President Besteman)

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Attended UP Road Builders. Great opportunity to network with and meet people from other road commissions. Received an invite to visit a couple of other counties to look at some of their equipment and see their new International and Western Star Trucks.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Attended UP Road Builders. UP Clerks met and had a lengthy conversation regarding the search for alternate financial software. Many raised concerns regarding the software and these concerns were noted at the UP Road Builders business meeting and the software committee meeting this week.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- Starting to prep for winter operations.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Congratulations to Neil Uponen on his retirement today.
- Thank you to the crew that responded to the sink hole on I-75. Their quick response and quality work to patch it and get it re-opened quickly is appreciated. The Road Commission has received compliments on this.
- UP Road Builders was a good event with good networking and discussion on Trucks. Peterbilt is discontinuing the model truck we currently use and the one that is replacing it will not meet our needs. We are working with their engineers to come up with a solution.
- Several bills in Lansing to watch. HB4282 and 4283 are proposing some changing to the drain code that could adversely impact the

Upper Peninsula. HB4012 has passed committee and proposes changes on how to modify established speed limits, moving decision authority from MSP to road commissions.

- PA41 has been signed into law, effective July 1st. This puts a ban on drivers with hand held devices in vehicles. The law makes it a primary offence which is considered "cause" to pull a vehicle over.
- Received notice from MDOT requiring rumble strips be used in all MDOT work zones lasting four (4) or more hours.
- Waiting to hear the results of our application for the Michigan Pension Grant.
- An article was published yesterday by a reporter for WMCU regarding the old Paradise Garage site. Most of the article focused on unsubstantiated claims made by a local interest group. Much of the information provided to the reporter by the Chippewa County Road Commission was omitted, giving the appearance that the conditions are worse than reality. We continue to work with EGLE and the EPA, conducting well monitoring at the site, and continue to meet all our obligations with them in regards to this area. At this time neither agency considers this a high risk site.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Amend the minutes of the May 25th meeting to record the award of the Gravel Crushing Bid to Brow Construction but accept all bids to ensure gravel is available when needed, as item D(v). Manager Laitinen explained that this action was recorded in the hand written notes from the meeting but were not included in the typed minutes.

MOTION by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to amend the minutes from May 25th to record the bid award for gravel crushing to Brow Construction as moved in the May 25th meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

- B.) Transfer \$200K to OPEB Trust Account.

MOTION by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize the transfer of \$200K to the OPEB Trust Account with Morgan Stanley.

MOTION CARRIED

- C.) Bruce Township Road Agreement - this road agreement is for the construction of a bypass road around the Charlotte River Bridge on 12 Mile Road. Township share is approx. \$144,656.00

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the Bruce Township Road Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

- D.) MERS Delegate Certification for Officer and Union representative. This year's annual MERS conference will be held in Detroit. Manager Laitinen recommended he be selected as this year's delegate and Manager Decker be selected as the alternate. The collective bargaining unit votes on their delegate selection.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to appoint Manager Laitinen as the MERS Officer Delegate and Office Manager Decker as the Alternate Officer and authorize the collective bargaining unit to appoint a delegate and alternate of their choosing.

MOTION CARRIED

- E.) Award M-123 Shoulder Bid - Manager Laitinen described the scope of the job. Two companies bid the work; Payne & Dolan and Rieth Riley. Manager Laitinen recommended awarding the bid to low bidder, Rieth Riley, upon approval of amount by MDOT.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to award the M-123 shoulder bid to Rieth Riley upon approval of MDOT

MOTION CARRIED

- F.) RESOLUTION 2023-12 - MDOT Contract #23-5265 County-wide pavement markings.

MOTION by Commission Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to pass RESOLUTION 2023-12 for the county-wide pavement markings under MDOT Contract #23-5265.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

County Commissioners Comments

- County Commissioner Traynor reported the sale of the War Memorial Hospital building is set with three weeks before the final vote to make it official.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Fleet Manager Donajkowski reported the purchase of some equipment for the shop through an auction. The items are a Bridge Port Mill and a surface grinder. These items will speed up turnaround time on repairs by allowing for some of the work to be done in-house rather than sent out.

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis thanked the crew for the prep work performed to get their gravel roads ready for brining.
- Manager Laitinen mentioned a letter regarding the response of the DNR as it relates to the disposal of dead deer found in the roadway.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Sprague inquired about M-80 & Country Club Drive. A citizen approached him requesting a more significant fix to that intersection than a patch. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Gagnon wants everyone to stay safe. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman