

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 November 7, 2024.

Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 8:01 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Gagnon, Commissioner Moser, Commissioner Sprague, Manager Laitinen, Office Manager Decker, Clerk Livermore, Clerk Christensen, Foreman Johnston, Foreman Johnson, Foreman Goodman, Union President Eavou, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Engineer Boileau, Clerk McLean.

ABSENT: Chief Mechanic Marsh.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that November 7, 2024, Payroll in the amount of \$185,531.55 and Vouchers in the amount of \$627,654.69 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2024, and place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- NONE

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- First phase of the computer upgrades complete. The office is now running on the Microsoft Platform.
- Had the second meeting for the telephone system upgrade from analog to digital. Changeover will come in phases with new equipment to be delivered early next week and testing of the internet capabilities in the coming weeks.
- Server upgrade will be the last piece of the IT upgrade.
- Beginning the 2025 budget and hope to have information to present soon.

Foreman Johnston

- Snow staking.
- Cleaning up the plow trucks to get ready for winter work.
- Fixing up the turnarounds.
- The skid steer was on Sugar Island to clean up sand around the causeway guardrail.

Foreman Goodman

- Ditch work and grading gravel roads.
- Worked on a clearing project for MDOT to do a pipe changeout.

Foreman Johnson

- Finishing up the full width mowing of the county roads.
- Completed some shoulder repairs on Drummond Island caused by side-by-sides on the shoulder.
- Grading roads.

Engineer Boileau

- Putting together information for the upcoming budget process.
- Finishing up some projects and reporting.

Clerk Christensen

- Updating the snow-route maps for the garages.
- Updating the information in the foremen's emergency folders.

Union President Eavou

- Nothing new to report.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Was on vacation last week.
- The mechanics are fully staffed and catching up.
- Working on a project to update the parts list in the computer system.

Clerk Livermore

- Attended the MERS conference in Grand Rapids. Good conference and invited Terra Langham, our regional representative, for an office visit this winter.
- Attended the UP Clerks F&HR meeting. Good meeting with training provided on the completion of 1099's as the upcoming Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) and how it may affect road commissions. More to come depending on legislative action.
- Training the new payroll clerk.
- Training with Office Manager Decker on quarterly inventory reporting and adjustments.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attended Straits Area District meeting on Tuesday and the first MDOT Negotiating meeting. Both good meetings. The MDOT Executive Director is willing to hold and attend meetings in Lansing as well as locations more conveniently located for the UP members of the committee.
- Been watching the local election results. Former Commissioner Ormsbee was elected to the Cheboygan County Road Commission.
- Will work with Engineer Boileau to reach out to the state representatives before the start of the next term to make connections and provide information on road commission related issues.
- Received the 2025 MDOT Maintenance Budget. Due to the mild winter last year, our 5-year average was down slightly, resulting in a reduction of approximately \$20k in winter funds.
- There has been some recent conversation and scrutiny regarding the PA202 healthcare certification and the ability for Road Commissions to opt out. There will be more to come as it becomes available.
- Received an invitation to participate in an MDOT project to create a winter severity index.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

None

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported he is working with Neebish Island to find a reasonable solution to the ferry schedule. The current 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. schedule does not provide the level of service necessary for families with school age children who want to participate in after school extracurricular activities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rudyard Township Supervisor Barry Davis reported no one ran for his seat at township supervisor and there were no write in candidates.
- Foreman Goodman reported signs are being stolen again.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Sprague reported receiving a call with concerns about Hantz Road caused by an MDOT detour.
- Commissioner Moser reported Drummond Island Township has a new Supervisor.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Gagnon wished everyone "Stay Safe" and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman