

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 July 18, 2024.

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, Foreman Johnston, Clerk Livermore, Fleet Manager Donajkowski, Foreman Johnson, Engineer Boileau, Foreman Goodman, Union President Eavou, Engineer Tech Tuori.

ABSENT: Foreman Rye, Clerk Christensen, Chief Mechanic Marsh.

GUEST PRESENT: Chippewa County Commissioner Jim Traynor.

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

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that the July 3, 2024 Payroll in the amount of \$183,669.25 and Vouchers in the amount of \$139,847.86 be approved and authorized for payment from the County Road Fund subject to audit.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague that July 18, 2024, Payroll in the amount of \$180,844.19 and Vouchers in the amount of \$746,225.13 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 June 20, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2024, and Closed Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2024, and place them of file.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

STAFF REPORTS

Office Manager Decker

- Mentoring the staff as transition to retirement. Working on quarter end reporting with Clerk Livermore, equipment work with Fleet Manager Donajkowski, and inventory processes with Clerk Christensen.

Superintendent Erickson

- All Good. The rain is keeping dust down and serving as "brine."

Foreman Johnston

- Working on M-28 detour route. Undercut on 10 Mile Road done.
- Replacing culverts as time and weather allows.
- State mowing is going well. I-75 is done.

Foreman Goodman

- Work on Tahqua Trail is complete.
- State mowers on on-track.
- Changing culverts.
- Starting Brimley catch basin work on M-221.

Foreman Johnson

- Finished prep work on Prentis Bay Road.

- Working on sand lift on Peasley Road.
- Finishing mowing hopefully by end of next week.

Foreman Rye

- No Report.

Engineer Boileau

- Working M-28 detour with Foreman Johnston.
- Crack sealing being done in Rudyard, Kinross, and Bruce Townships.
- Putting together more township work and road agreements into 2028.
- Attended a special meeting with Pickford Township regarding plans for Pleasant Avenue.
- Received notice from the Environmental Division of MDOT that work on the 12 Mile over Charlotte River Bridge will require a public hearing.

Engineer Tech Tuori

- Traffic study on Mackinac Trail from 9 Mile to Gaines Highway starts July 23rd.
- Dafter paving should start next week. Engineer Boileau reported she will connect with Payne and Dolan to confirm.

Clerk Christensen

- No report.

Union President Eavou

- Happy to report an agreement regarding health insurance and wages was reached. Expressed gratitude to the board for this.

Fleet Manager Donajkowski

- Two new dump trailers were delivered and put into service.
- Winter blades are in.
- Looking into refurbishing a single axle truck as a substitute to full replacement. This option could provide the road commission with a "Like New" truck for less than ½ the cost of a new truck. Baraga County Road Commission has had success doing this with an old truck they purchased from us a few years ago. Discussion ensued.

Payroll/H.R./Board Clerk Livermore

- Nothing new to report.

Chief Mechanic Marsh

- No Report.

MANAGER' S REPORT

- Attended a meeting at Whitefish Township. Gave a general report of activities and projects in that area. Meeting went well.
- Thanked President Eavou for the work to come to an agreement with the union. More to come under new business.
- Attended meetings in Lansing for MI Wetland and DEQ Steering Committee.
- Had a good vacation. Thank you everyone for taking care of business during this absence.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Health Insurance Election Cost Share - Manager Laitinen presented information to the board regarding the negotiation of the health insurance with the union. As authorized by the board, the accepted offer by the union included set employee contributions via payroll deduction and a 2% increase in wages to be implemented for the first pay in September. It was agreed this early wage increase

would replace the "wage opener" that would have taken place in January 2025.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve the employee cost share of the 2024/2025 health insurance plan and a 2% wage increase to be observed for the first pay in September.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Commissioner Sprague **SECONDED** by Commissioner Moser, to elect to "Opt Out" of the imposition of "Hard-cap" or "80/20" cost shares under PA152 for the plan renewal year.

MOTION CARRIED

B. County Road Association proposed changes to Constitution and Bylaws - Manager Laitinen reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws and the removal of "Constitution" from the document title. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to vote in favor the of proposed changes.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Sign Annual Financial Report Attest Page.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to authorize Chairman Gagnon and Office Manager Decker to sign to the 2023 Annual Financial Report Attest Page.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

None

County Commissioners Comments

- Commissioner Traynor reported an oil spill at the Valley Camp.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Engineer Boileau presented **RESOLUTION 2024-18**, a Safe Routes to School Grant Application.

MOTION by Commissioner Moser **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sprague to approve Resolution 2024-18.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANAMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Gagnon wished everyone "stay safe". The meeting adjourned at 8:41 A.M.

Bobbie Livermore
Clerk for the Board

Jeremy Gagnon
Chairman