

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Road Commission office at 800 W. Franklin Street, Iron River, Michigan.

Chairman Frailing led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting.

Present for the roll call were Chairman Ron Frailing, Vice-Chairman Dan Germic and Commissioners Ernie Schmidt, Chuck Battan, and Jim Cihak. Also present were Superintendent/Manager Douglas C. Tomasoski P.E., Finance Director Michelle Johnson, Interim Superintendent/ Manager Brad Toivonen, Construction Foreman/ Engineering Asst. Kevin Schiavo, Interim Foreman Robert Johnson, Attorney Mark Tousignant, and Mastodon Twp Supervisor Frank Siewiorek.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Accepted the agenda in a motion from Commissioner Battan, supported by Schmidt.

Ayes: All  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

**MINUTES TO BE APPROVED**

The following minutes were presented: Audit of December 13, 2022

A motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak, to accept the regular minutes

Ayes: All  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

The following minutes were presented: Regular of December 13, 2022

A motion by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Schmidt to accept the regular minutes

Ayes: all  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

**DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

The disbursements to be approved included:

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 184,210.58
b. Prepaid Claims of:	222,453.56
c. Accounts Payables of:	234,095.79

Total: \$ 640,759.93

It was motioned by Battan, supported by Schmidt to approve the Audit Committee Report dated December 31, 2022, covering the above disbursements.

Roll call vote: Ayes- Schmidt, Cihak, Germic, Battan, Frailing  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Tomasoski then gave his report.

Fuel Tank Update- Electrical is currently being done. Fuel bids are due Jan. 24, 2023

Equipment- Radios: will be reaching out to other road commissions for input on what they are using. Also looking into a few funding sources to help update the current system.

General/Misc.-Bridge Inspections-Final reports are in. Appropriate signage is being ordered for the Idlewild Bridge closure. Commissioner Schmidt noted that he had received phone calls about Idlewild Bridge and requested further discussion on the situation. Superintendent Tomasoski detailed the planned signage placement, the possibility of dirt work in the spring to improve the area for a turnaround and funding for bridge work. State grant applications for bridge funding will be submitted by the April 2023 deadline for 2026 construction. There are funds budgeted already for 2023 engineering and planning. The possibility of periodic public notice reminders regarding the bridge being closed was also discussed.

Great Lakes Council Meeting- Brad Toivonen and Michelle Johnson, as well as Commissioner Battan all attended the Great Lakes Council meeting on Jan. 5, 2023. Brad reported back information regarding the increases in fuel taxes and the effect that electric vehicles are having on fuel tax revenue in Michigan, as well as the proposed County Road Assoc. Legislative Priority regarding increasing the competitive bid threshold. Michelle added information from MCRCSIP about the expansion of appreciated coverage to include passenger vehicles in addition to the heavy equipment. This coverage offers replacement value coverage as opposed to coverage at the depreciated value.

Chairman Frailing requested a price quote to increase the coverage on our passenger vehicles to appreciated coverage.

Commissioner Schmidt asked the Equipment Committee to move on purchasing the grader/packer.

Chairman Frailing asked about Franzene Rd. getting on the schedule for 2023, which is a possibility and Commissioner Battan requested an update on the status of the Navistar rebate. Superintendent Tomasoski said we have not yet given the award letter on the tandem bid because Dean is still in conversation with the sales rep at International about the rebate.

**DELEGATIONS**

Mastodon Township Supervisor Frank Siewiorek informed the Board that he had received phone calls from residents on Camp 5 because they were not receiving their mail. He contacted the Postmaster and was told that their contracted mail carrier for that area drove a 2-wheel vehicle.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(g) Parks & Recreation- (Germic (ch) Cihak) Commissioner Germic reported there was not a quorum at the last meeting, but there is one scheduled for Jan. 24. At an earlier meeting, they had applied for and received grant money for work on the Pentoga Boat Launch. An additional, highly competitive grant to upgrade the electrical at Pentoga Park has also been applied for

(i) Policy- Copies of all current Iron County Road Commission policies were provided to the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Iron County resident Mark Bromley was present and had several questions about Idlewild Bridge:

He inquired as to whether the bridge can be opened to walking and bicycle traffic, if the Road Commission had looked into temporary reinforcements for the bridge and requested the Lake Association be kept involved with the DEQ permitting and bridge planning. Superintendent Tomasoski informed everyone that he is currently looking into whether the bridge can be opened to non-motorized traffic as well as information regarding temporary bridge reinforcement with our consulting firm. He feels involvement from the Association is a great idea and public hearings and public comments are a part of the permit process. Mr. Bromley also applauded the Board for making the difficult decision to close the bridge and erring on the side of caution.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**IRS MILEAGE RATE IS 65.5 CENTS PER MILE FOR 2023**

**SET MEETING DATES-FUEL BIDS AND FINANCE DIRECTOR EVALUATION**

The Personnel Committee will meet with the Finance Director January 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.  
A Special Meeting will be to award fuel bids will be held January 25, 2023, at 3:00 p.m

**COMMISSIONERS REIMBURSEMENT RATES**

Discussion was held regarding the current Road Commissioner reimbursement rates, and those of the Iron County Board Commissioners. As the Road Board has not requested an increase in over 10 years, it was decided to request to be put on the County Board agenda for February.

It was motioned by Germic, supported by Battan, to request an upgrade to the monthly salary and meeting fees paid to the Road Board, up to the amounts currently paid to the County Board. A letter is to be sent to the Iron County Board of Commissioners, requesting to be put on the February 2023 agenda.

Roll call vote: Schmidt, Germic, Cihak, Battan, Frailing  
Nays: None  
Motion carried.

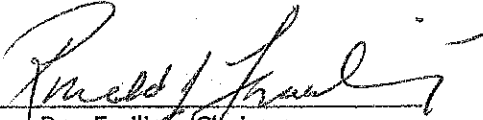
**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

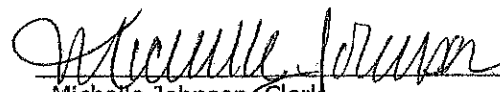
Attorney Tousignant offered that Finance Director Johnson responded to the Treeline Drive FOIA with the information that the records requested do not exist.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

None.

At 9:16 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Schmidt supported by Cihak to adjourn.

  
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Ron Frailing, Chairman

  
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Michelle Johnson, Clerk