

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Thursday, November 9, 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, Commissioners Ernie Schmidt, Chuck Battan, and Jim Cihak. Also present were Interim Supr./ Mngr. Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Patti Leonoff, Foremen Rob Johnson and Dean Stolberg, Iron County Commissioner Ean Bruette and Attorney Mark Tousignant.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Finance Director Johnson requested an addition: New Business b.) End of Year Act 51 Primary to Local Fund Transfer.

Accepted the agenda, with the requested addition in a motion from Commissioner Schmidt, supported by Germic.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

**MINUTES TO BE APPROVED**

The following minutes were presented: Audit of October 17, 2023

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The following minutes were presented: Regular of October 17, 2023

The motion by Commissioner Battan, 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:	\$ 119,579.83
b. Prepaid Claims of:	393,892.50
c. Accounts Payables of:	238,637.49
Total:	\$ 752,109.82

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Schmidt to approve the Audit Committee Report dated October 31, 2023, covering the above disbursements.

Roll call vote: Ayes- Germic, Battan, Cihak, Schmidt, Frailing

Nays: None

Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Interim Supr. Toivonen then reviewed his report:

Fuel Update- Insight is unable to extend the current contract; will going out for bids for 2024 fuel.

Sand- Last load was delivered to Oss garage November 1, and the Foreman believes they have enough for winter.

Salt-Salt deliveries have been in progress. There were issues initially with the quality being delivered to Oss, but hopefully this has been resolved.

Amasa crushing-Iron City Enterprise is looking at late December or Spring to begin; the due date is June 30, 2024.

#### Primary Roads:

CR424 PH5-Final paperwork is nearly complete and will potentially be wrapped up this week.

CR424 PH6-MODT is confident this project will make the Feb. 2024 letting.

Brule Mountain Rd.-Lansing still needs to give approval on the design exemptions, but MDOT is confident this project will make the Feb. 2024 letting.

Stager Lake Rd./ Stager Lake Park-Signs are up and running. There has been no feedback received yet.

FHWA-Paperwork was received yesterday indicating MDOT approval of six of the submitted projects: Emergency response is reimbursed 100% and is expected to be \$38,742.88. \$205,493.88 in permanent repairs were approved, with an 80% reimbursement of \$164,395.10. These projects are run through MDOT and the process will be the same as the other primary road projects. There are four other sites on the list where additional pictures were requested. Any projects under the \$5,000 threshold were removed.

Local Roads: All local road projects have been completed.

Fleet/ Equipment Upgrade- Dean traveled down state to pick up the 2011 Freightliner from Wolverine Freightliner Eastside on October 29. He is pleased with the purchase and will need to make minimal changes before putting it into service. All the work on the Western Star and Peterbilt is complete, and they are in use.

Employment- All the seasonal HEOP's and MDOT night patrol staff have been hired and are in various stages of starting. The job posting with MTU for the Civil Engineer position has been extended until the first of the year, with a plan to run advertisements in local newspapers and possibly Houghton at the end of November.

#### Bridges:

Idlewild-Fortune Cr- There were 41 Large Bridge applications for approx. \$469 million dollars submitted to the Local Bridge Advisory Board requesting funding. Only 5 were selected, totaling \$12.50 million. Idlewild was not selected, and the plan is to resubmit in April 2024 for the next round of funding.

Resort Drive-Fortune Cr.- Bridge inspections are complete, and recommendations were made by Ayers: If the intent was to re-open the bridge to vehicular traffic: The structure was built in 1914 and is past its service life. Additionally, because of the deterioration of the deck, cracks in abutments, heavy corrosion of the girders and the deterioration of the wingwalls, the structure should be replaced in the next 5 to 10 years; doing extensive repair and maintenance would not be cost effective. Alternately, if the intent is to open the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, wedging the approaches, sealing the end of the deck joint and re-grading the approach shoulders is recommended. A meeting with MDOT and Crystal Falls Township will be set up in the next couple of months.

FH-16 North and South Branches- Plans are complete and a meeting with Ayers will be made to discuss next steps and bidding for construction engineering will need to be done. Commissioner Schmidt expressed concern with a possible conflict of interest if the same company that inspects the bridges were to do the construction engineering as well.

Biennial bridge inspections, scour critical inspections and dam inspections have all been completed.

MCRCSIP- Mike Phillips was scheduled to hold safety training on October 31, but it had to be cancelled due to weather. He completed the site inspection at Oss since he was here.

### **DELEGATIONS**

None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

g. Parks and Recreation- October 17, 2023-meeting: the Committee asked if the Road Commission could barricade the bridge at Cooks Run as they do not believe it is safe enough for the ATV traffic that is occurring there. This has been taken care of.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS**

Finance Director Johnson updated the Board on the reinvestment of the 1-yr CD through Multibank Securities, at 5.450% and the increase in interest revenues over the last two-and-a-half years.

MERS 3<sup>rd</sup>. quarter Statement of Fiduciary Net Position was highlighted. The \$851,132 received from the Protecting Michigan Pension Grant is reflected in this statement. Treasury requested a Corrective Action Plan Monitoring form be completed, as is one of the conditions under the approved Corrective Action Plan. This was submitted on November 8<sup>th</sup> to Treasury.

### **END OF YEAR ACT 51 PRIMARY TO LOCAL FUND TRANSFER**

Finance Director Johnson reviewed page 7 of the 2022 Act 51 report: Statement of Changes in Fund Balances. She requested approval for the transfer between funds as detailed in the report: \$900,000 transfer from Primary to Local and further detailed the amounts spent from the fund balance of each separate fund for 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Germic supported Schmidt, to approve the transfer as requested.

Roll call vote: Ayes- Battan, Cihak, Schmidt, Germic, Frailing

Nays: None

Motion carried.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Nothing to report. Mark did agree with Commissioner Schmidt that there is potential for a conflict of interest if the same company inspecting the bridges is also contracted to do the construction engineering.

### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

None.

At 9:14 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Schmidt supported by Battan to adjourn.

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Ron Frailing, Chairman

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Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board