

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Road Commission office at 800 W. Franklin Street, Iron River, Michigan.

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

Present for the roll call were Chairman Ernie Schmidt, Vice Chairman Ron Frailing, Commissioners Dan Germic, Chuck Battan and Jim Cihak. Also, present were Interim Supr./ Mngr. Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Patti Leonoff, Foreman Dean Stolberg, Iron County Commissioner Ean Bruette, Dave Smith, Mastodon Twp., and Attorney Mark Tousignant.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Accepted the agenda in a motion from Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion carried.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

The following minutes were presented: Audit and Regular of December 12, 2023.

A motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Frailing to accept the above minutes.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion carried.

The following minutes were presented: Closed Session of December 12, 2023.

The motion by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic to accept the above minutes.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion carried.

The following minutes were presented: Special Meeting of December 27, 2023.

The motion by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan to accept the above minutes.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion carried.

The following minutes were presented: Reorganizational Meeting of January 2, 2024.

The motion by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to accept the above minutes with a correction to 9.- Board Council: addition of "supported by Battan" to the motion approving Board Council for 2024.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

The disbursements to be approved included:

- a. Payrolls of: \$ 160,458.75
- b. Prepaid Claims of: 104,528.84
- c. Accounts Payables of: 153,403.66

Total: \$ 418,391.25

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated December 12, 2023, covering the above disbursements.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Interim Supr. Toivonen then reviewed his report:

Fuel Update- Fuel ordered 1-8-24 for delivery 1-10-24 at Oss.

Salt-Working with MDOT on another delivery to Iron River.

Iron River Shop- Approved a quote to replace 12 high bay lights in parking area of the garage, concluding the LED lighting upgrade.

Primary Roads:

Brule Mountain Rd.-March MDOT letting; anticipate early summer 2024 construction.

STP Funds Buyout- Delta County Road Commission is interested in buying our 2025 STP funding. We would be able to use the buyout monies as our match for the State-D funding on projects planned and have greater flexibility in the 2025 phases of CR424 and Hagerman Lake projects. More information and a recommendation will be submitted in February.

FHWA-The approved Bates-Amasa and Ponozzo Rd. projects are budgeted for 2024. The amounts approved included engineering, but as we are having difficulty hiring a Civil Engineer, we expect to have to contract out those services.

Bates-Amasa Rd.- Clear vision is complete and will be maintained to keep the sight distance.

FEMA: Received notification that the FEMA appeal was denied. A meeting between County Emergency Management and MSP was held 1-8-24; Road Commissions were not included. It is anticipated that the Section 19 emergency relief will move forward soon with MSP.

Fleet/ Equipment Upgrade- Shop Foreman Stolberg checked with the vendors and both chassis are still on schedule for later this year.

Employment- Civil Engineering- Only one application was received, from a non-qualified applicant. We may have to use a consulting firm for engineering in the immediate future as there is a large amount of paperwork and permitting expected for the upcoming emergency repair projects; these to go through the letting process with MDOT as other federal aid projects do.

Bridges:

Resort Drive-Fortune Cr.- Met with MDOT and Crystal Falls Township December 13,2023. There are some questions regarding adjacent property deeds that will be investigated by MDOT and the Township.

FH-16 North and South Branches- Bid packages are out, with a January 31, 2024, due date. Ayers had previously estimated the cost at approx. \$100,000 per bridge. Brad did stop and talk to Forestry about funding concerns and possible issues with timber sales in that area without a rehab on the bridges. Possible submission to MDOT bridge funding in April.

Wild Rivers-Iron River Culvert-to-Bridge: U.P. Engineering provided a preliminary estimate of 1.3 million, which is over \$600,000 more than the monies that have been raised by the involved entities. Geri Grant, Superior Watershed Program, is looking to set up a meeting with all the involved entities to discuss the overage by seeking out additional funding and possibly cutting back on the design.

Regional Task Force: 12-14-23 meeting, with Iron as Secretary. 2025 Federal Aid exchange was cancelled and there is hope for reinstatement by 2027-2028.

MCRCSIP- Tentative training with Mike Phillips the week of January 22; waiting on confirmation from Mike.

Great Lakes Council Meeting- 1-4-24- MCRASIF Director Jim DeSpelder is gone, and Joyce Randall-Porter is filling in as Interim. State Representative Jenn Hill, 109th District, was a special guest speaker. Greg Markkanen is the State Representative for Iron County, 110th District.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions-Gogebic County RC called to inquire about our seasonal weight restriction policy, as Gogebic and Iron are the two Counties on the Western end of the U.P. that do not utilize the 35% reduction law. Our policy works for us and will not be changing.

Fiber Optic: 1-8-24 meeting between Iron RC, Highline, AEG and GEI Consultants. Highline and AEG want to do direction boring over the winter. Discussion about permit requirements and the need for permit resubmission.

January 13th is the anniversary of Larry Leonarduzzi's accident; Brad asks everyone to take a moment to think of him.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

DELEGATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

IRS MILEAGE RATE IS SET AT 67 CENTS PER MILE FOR 2024

FOREST ROAD FUNDS-ALLOCATION

A motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak, to approve the allocation of Forest Road Funds as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

JUNE 11, 2024, MEETING-RESCHEDULED

The June regular meeting is rescheduled to June 10 from June 11, 2024, as this day conflicts with the UPRB Summer Conference in Brimley.

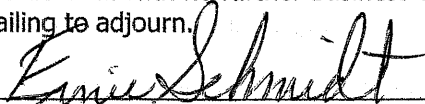
ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

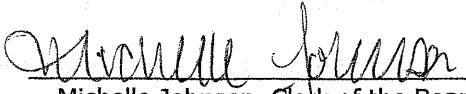
COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Battan was contacted by a resident on Pentoga. She was having windows delivered and they were destroyed when the delivery truck hit the large bump in the road in Alpha Village. Commissioner Battan wanted to clarify that this section of road is part of the Village, but wanted to make Dave Smith aware as he represents Mastodon Twp.

At 9:13 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Germic, supported by Frailing to adjourn.



Ernie Schmidt, Chairman



Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board