

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, March 12, 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, Commissioners Dan Germic, Jim Cihak and Chuck Battan. Also, present were Interim Supr./ Mngr. Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Patti Leonoff, Foremen Dean Stolberg and Rob Johnson, Iron County Commissioner Ean Bruette, Dave Smith, Mastodon Twp., and Attorney Mark Tousignant. Brian Schiavo, GEI Consultants and Ronjo Leonoff, Iron County resident were also in the audience. Vice-Chairman Ron Frailing attended via phone for a portion of the meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Toivonen requested two additions: New Business k.) HR-PR Administrator position and l.) IR Office/Garage property survey.

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

The following minutes were presented: Audit and Regular of February 13, 2024

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

Ayes: Germic, Battan, Cihak

Nays: None

Abstain: Commissioner Schmidt

Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

The disbursements to be approved included:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| a. Payrolls of: | \$ 153,453.13 |
| b. Prepaid Claims of: | 61,762.04 |
| c. Accounts Payables of: | 197,572.35 |
| | - |
| Total: | \$ 412,787.52 |

Motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated February 29, 2024, covering the above disbursements.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Interim Supr. Toivonen reviewed his report:

Fuel Update- IR winter fuel is almost gone; summer fuel will be ordered in the next couple of weeks.

Gravel- An individual with property off Osterlund Rd., South of Anderson Pit, is inquiring as to whether the Road Commission would want to purchase it for gravel. Brad is still looking into it, with the possibility of test pits or boring.

Amasa Crushing-Iron City Crushing tentatively starting at end of April as weight restrictions are still in place.

Oss Garage-High Bay light replacement is happening today in the wash bay.

Primary Roads:

Phase 6-MDOT confirmed this project will be part of the April letting.

Brule Mountain Rd. Ph 5-Low bid came in at \$55,854 under the engineers' estimate. Since this money will be lost if not spent, there is a possibility of adding pavement marking for some of our primaries as a 2025 project to get it obligated in time.

Hagerman Lake PH1-Delta Co Buyout- Received signed resolution back from Delta County and working on the next steps. Delta is also interested in purchasing our federal aid in 2027 (PH3).

FHWA-ER Program 2023 Flooding-UPEA has already submitted NEPA & SHPO paperwork; because this project is ER, the turnaround time has been shorter, and results are coming in. Brad and Michelle met with MDOT to review the reimbursement process.

Local Roads:

Paving bids are being recognized as an agenda item. Agreements were sent out and should be getting signed by the Townships this week.

FEMA/Legislative Appropriations-Representative Jenn Hill organized a meeting on 3/5/24 with the six county Emergency Managers. She requested the road commissions "prioritize" their damages. On 3/7/24, the six road commissions met to discuss how to move forward and possibly adding the street damages Iron River City incurred to our numbers. Another meeting was held on 3/11/24 to further discuss obtaining a special appropriation. While the intent was to include MSP and multiple State Representatives, only MSP and the Emergency Managers/Road Commissions were in attendance, so nothing was able to be accomplished. Dan, Ernie and Brad will be attending the Legislative Banquet with CRA next week in Lansing and are hoping to have an opportunity to show pictures and share information about the damage the UP Counties experienced with our Legislators. Section 19 funds were applied for and were told we would receive, but now there is no funding. The tornados downstate in August are being taken into account as well. The road commissions want the EMs to go after the Section 19 money and have our lobbyists-CRA-work on obtaining additional appropriations.

Equipment: Delivery expected in July for both chassis. AEDs arrived in February and are in place. Considering a staff review on using them.

Employment: HEOP position from last fall was internally posted and a Mechanic signed it, so that position will need to be filled at the Oss garage. The recently vacated IR HEOP position is currently posted, and another remains open from last August. We will be scheduling a staff meeting this week to discuss the three open HEOP positions. Applications for summer college help have been coming in.

Bridges:

Resolutions for the resubmission of the Idlewild Bridge and the initial submission of the FH-16 N & S Bridges into the LAB Bridge program are agenda items. Letters of support have been requested from the IC Chamber, Ottawa National Forest, Stambaugh Township, Great Lakes Timber Assoc., and Representative Greg Markkanen.

Wild Rivers-Iron River Culvert Crossing- Geri Grant (Superior Watershed) has been assisting Bette Premo (Iron County Watershed Coalition) in applying for more grants to cover the deficit between current funding and the design engineering estimate.

Biennial Bridge Inspections-RFPs went out 2/16/24 and are due 3/29/24. Bridges in the Cities of Crystal Falls, Iron River and Caspian were included to get better pricing in mobilization for all parties.

Miscellaneous:

MDOT work items-Meeting with Andy Illieff from MDOT scheduled today to discuss the Iron River salt shed.

MCRCSIP- Michelle and Dean have completed updating the equipment inventory replacement costs. They will

then be moving onto the building contents. The purpose is to make sure we have adequate and appropriate insurance coverage in place.

McCoy John Deere Plant Tour- Brad, Dean, Ernie and Chuck are scheduled to attend in April.

Schoolcraft County Road Commission-Brad and Dean went for a tour of their facilities. Their building is a larger version of Oss garage. They were also able to buy two used underbodies and learn some information about their fleet management program.

CRA Special Meeting-CRA put out a media release, talking about how underfunded the MTF is. Funding would need to increase by 1.8 billion annually to reach the goals of 90% good/fair condition on primary roads and 60% good/fair condition on local roads.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions: Restrictions are still on and there is uncertainty as to how long.

Fiber Optic: Received the most recently revised permit from AEG 3/11/24 and Brad believes large scale permitting will begin. JSI has been in contact regarding third-party inspections and there are still some issues to work out.

DELEGATIONS

Mastodon Township: Dave Smith, Trustee, mentioned that the property owners involved with the Treeline Drive lawsuit approached Mastodon Twp. about the abandonment via email. He also commented about the frost coming out of the roads in a strange manner.

Chairman Schmidt asked County Commissioner Bruette about the drain commissioner position. The County Board would like Brad to come to their meeting and speak with them on it and proceed from there.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

QUAD AXEL TRUCK BOXES

Moved by Commissioner Cihak supported by Germic, to rescind his motion from the 2-13-24 meeting, that had authorized the purchase of a steel box for truck #320 up to the amount of \$50,000.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Following discussion, the recommendation of the Equipment Committee is to accept the low bid for the two boxes as quoted.

A motion by Commissioner Battan supported by Germic, to award the low bid of \$54,770 to Truck Equipment Inc, for the purchase of two steel boxes for the quad axel trucks.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Following a brief discussion about getting the cabs painted on those two quads, Interim Supt. Toivonen requested Forman Stolberg obtain quotes from shops in Green Bay to possibly have the paint and installation of the boxes done at the same time.

Moved by Commissioner Battan, supported by Germic, to move forward on painting the quads that are getting the new boxes.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: BRULE MOUNTAIN RD. MDOT CONTRACT

The resolution for signing of the Brule Mountain Rd. MDOT contract 24-5033 was adopted in a motion by Commissioner Germic with support by Cihak.

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: IDLEWILD BRIDGE APPLICATION

The resolution for the submission of the Idlewild Bridge application to the LAP Program was adopted in a motion by Commissioner Cihak with support by Germic.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: FH-16 N & S BRIDGES APPLICATION

The resolution for the submission of the FH-16 N & S Bridges application to the LAP Program was adopted in a motion by Commissioner Cihak with support by Germic.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2024 LOCAL PROJECT ENGINEERING

Interim Supt. Toivonen requested the Board waive the construction engineering on the 2024 local projects as we have in previous years. Chairman Schmidt requested an amendment to the policy for local heavy maintenance projects be presented at the April meeting to alleviate having to vote on waiving it each year.

A motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Germic, to waive the construction engineering/oversight fees on the 2024 local heavy maintenance projects.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2024 LOCAL PROJECT BIDS

The bid summarization for the local projects was supplied as informational to the Board. Agreements have gone out and are expected to be received back soon.

2024 CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL BIDS

A bid summary for culverts, pavement marking, cold patch and crack fill materials was provided by Interim Supt. Toivonen with a recommendation to accept the lowest bid on all items.

Moved by Commissioner Germic, support by Battan, to accept the lowest bid as summarized for each material bid.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

MERS UPDATE-2024 STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

Finance Director Johnson reviewed the provided 2024 MERS Statement of Net Position. The road commission experienced a net increase in position of 2,148,469 for 2023 and is estimated to be at approximately 69% funded as of 2023-year end. The MERS actuary will be received sometime this spring.

MILLAGE RENEWAL FOR 2025-2028

Finance Director Johnson presented the proposed draft ballot language, letter to the County and Interlocal Revenue Sharing Agreement for the 2025-2028 renewal of the .5 road millage.

A motion to approve the ballot language for the 4-year renewal of the road millage, 2025-2028 was made by Commissioner Cihak and supported by Germic.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Germic was excused at 9:48 a.m. for an appointment.

INFORMATIONAL: MCRC SIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

HR-PR ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

HP-PR Administrator Patti Leonoff will be retiring at the end of the year and Management would like to advertise for the position to allow time for training.

Moved by Commissioner Battan, support by Cihak, to advertise for the HR-PR Administrator position.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

SURVEY-IRON RIVER PROPERTY

Interim Supt. Toivonen requested approval to solicit surveying services for the Iron River Office and Garage property.

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to solicit bids to have the Iron River Office and Garage property surveyed.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Battan, Cihak, Schmidt

Nays: None

Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

None.

Interim Supt. Toivonen provided a comparison report on the Jan-Feb Maintenance, trunkline and operating expenses. It is misleading to think that because we have not had snow that the road commission is saving a ton of money. Employees are completing other tasks such as catching up on brushing, much needed building repairs, shop maintenance etc. Additionally, since we are not on the trunkline as much as we typically are, we are not collecting overhead revenue from the State either.

Chairman Schmidt also reiterated the importance of taking employees that have medical issues or emergencies to the hospital and not allowing them to drive themselves because they may not realize their lack of ability.

At 9:57 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Cihak, supported by Battan to adjourn.

Ernie Schmidt, Chairman

Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board