

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Road Commission office at 800 W. Franklin Street, Iron River, Michigan.

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

Present for the roll call were, 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. Chairman Ernie Schmidt was not in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Toivonen requested an addition: New Business h.) Quad Axel Truck Box.

Accepted the agenda, with the requested addition in a motion from Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

The following minutes were presented: Audit and Regular of January 9, 2024

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

The disbursements to be approved included:

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 243,632.01
b. Prepaid Claims of:	91,496.78
c. Accounts Payables of:	206,744.91
d. Bond Payment	15,068.75
Total:	<u>\$ 556,942.45</u>

Motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated January 31, 2024, covering the above disbursements.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Interim Superintendent Toivonen first thanked Iron River Forman Scott Weslin for assisting the Sherrif's Dept. in getting fuel on Saturday night during the emergency that had occurred in Iron River. He is meeting with the Iron Co. Emergency Manager Chris Peterson and the other local municipalities to update the County Emergency Manual and this type of situation is something that needs to be included.

Interim Supr. Toivonen then reviewed his report:

Fuel Update- Fuel ordered for 1-19-24 delivery in Iron River from Junction City terminal.
Salt-Delivery 1-18-24 to Iron River; notified yesterday that a 500-ton delivery is on its way.

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 will get more information.

Annual Material Bids- Bid requests to be sent out for Culverts, cold patch, crack fill, tar, pavement marking, with a due date of March 8, 2024.

Iron River Shop- Lighting upgrade was completed. Thank you to Ron Frailing and Mark Stauber for the information on the Energy Efficiency grant. We have qualified for a rebate on the garage upgrade. Additionally, the office and Iron River garage received replacement LED bulbs, higher efficiency aerators on the faucets and heat wrap on the pipes from the water heater when Jonathan (Waltz, SEEL, LLC) did a walk-through assessment of both facilities.

Primary Roads:

Co. Rd 424: Phase 5- File has been sent to MDOT for review. Phase 6-This project did not make the February 2024 letting due to an issue with the Federal obligation of funds.

Brule Mountain Rd. Ph 5-Still on track for a March letting.

FHWA-ER Program 2023 Flooding-Engineering RFP is an agenda item. The Emergency Response reimbursement of \$59,853 was received and had been recorded as 2023 receivable.

Local Roads:

Bids went out January 19, 2024, for local projects:

Crystal Falls Township - Pakala Rd. and a 50/50 split with Hematite Township on West Townline Rd., between the new highway and Bates-Amasa Rd.

Stambaugh Township - Golden Lk Trail.

FEMA: Iron Co. EM Chris Peterson has been working to make sure all numbers submitted to FEMA are correct. The six affected County Boards, including local municipalities that had also had damages, are compiling costs (we have the Cities of Iron River and Crystal Falls), and writing letters to our Legislators to try to get funding. The road commissions in those Counties are still pursuing funding with CRA lobbyists. Brad noted that the approved FEMA funding that has been is in the news for tornados downstate was for private homeowners, not public entities.

Equipment: The Western Star chassis is on schedule for July delivery.

Employment: We were notified last Friday that one of the HEOP's will be leaving for new employment. We are looking to have a staff meeting later this week to discuss options.

Bridges:

FH-16 North and South Branches-Bids- Agenda Item. Bids came in very high. Commissioner Schmidt had previously mentioned a RAISE grant. Brad has been and will continue to get information on this as there are a lot of requirements and paperwork involved to qualify.

Bi-annual Bridge Inspections: New mandates will be in place starting 2026. A bid package bundle to include all bridges in the County across jurisdictions will be submitted to Ayers to bring down the costs for all municipalities.

Ottawa National Forest Service: A request was received, asking for a Letter of Support from the Iron RC to obtain funding to upgrade three bridges located near our bridges that we have reduced loads on. Brad supplied a letter, including references to our bridges and has not received any feedback.

MCRCSIP: Mike Phillips did a walk through at the Iron River garage and there are a few minor issues that are being corrected. He is looking to get four trainings per year, but this has been difficult to get scheduled.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions: Restrictions will remain in place and a reevaluation will be done on Wednesday as to whether night permits can be given. The Townships pay a lot of money for these roads, and we need to do what we can to protect them while at the same time keeping the industries moving. Weekly meetings between the U.P. road commissions have been taking place.

Michigan Dept. of Treasury: Michelle has closed out 2023 and is working on the Act 51 report.

Fiber Optic: The unexpected road restrictions have prioritized the issuance of road permits over the fiber optic permitting. One fiber optic permit has been resubmitted to us to verify that all the necessary information is there. Once it has been reviewed, the rest of the permits can begin to be submitted by AEG. Midway Telephone and JSI have also been in contact to begin the same process and the Third-Party Inspection Agreement has been sent to them.

Drain Commissioner: While attending the County Engineers Workshop last week, Brad ran into Jean Vanderville, Manager of the Schoolcraft Road Commission. She is very knowledgeable about the drain commission duties, and he will be in contact with her if we continue to fill the role of Drain Commissioner. County Commissioner Bruette said he did not know of any new developments at the County level regarding transferring the drain commissioner duties back to the County, but he would bring it up at tonight's meeting. Timing to get it on the ballot for the election is a concern.

DELEGATIONS

Mastodon Township: Dave Smith, Trustee, wanted to know if the road commission could do some brushing on Carney Dam Rd. and Kalla Walla Rd. this winter. Interim Supt. Toivonen explained that crews were currently on Stager Lake Rd. and would probably be going to brush on the State Trunkline next as there is a March 1st. deadline for that brushing to be completed. Kalla Walla and Carney Dam Rd will be on the list for brushing to be done as time allows. Dave also had a few questions about an application received from AEG; Brad advised while the Township cannot issue ROW permits, they should speak to Township Council as he cannot advise him as to whether or sign it. Dave additionally provided a map that he obtained from the Water District, showing the Village line running right over the location of the "speed bump" that was discussed at the end of the January meeting. The thought is that the Village water and/or sewer line is under the bump, and the Village put it there. Dave also offered that the Village has a new President.

After some discussion with Commissioner Bruette about the drain commissioner duties going back to the County and the steps needed to do so, he agreed he would bring it to the County Board and Counsel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

g. Parks and Recreation: Commissioner Germic reported the last meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum and they are looking for volunteers to be on that Board.

i. Policy: Title VI-Agenda item. Commissioner Germic reviewed the policy updates and recommends the changes adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**FFH-16 N & S BRIDGES-REHAB BID**

Bids were received from only one bidder, coming in at \$470,812 for each bridge, which was much higher than the design engineers had estimated. Interim Supt. Toivonen recommends the bid be rejected. He is looking to move forward with applying for Federal Aid through the MDOT bridge program, like Idlewild bridge. The earliest construction would occur is 2027 if funding were awarded.

A motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak, to reject the bids submitted by Hebert Construction Co. in the amount of \$941,624.42 total, as recommended by Interim. Supt. Toivonen.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: NON-FEDERAL AID EXCHANGE WITH DELTA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Interim Supt. Toivonen explained Iron would be selling the STP funds allocated for Hagerman Lake PH1 and CR 424 PH7. The money received in the exchange with Delta would still be used on those two road projects. The benefit of going this route is that we would be able to get lower unit pricing and save time by not having to go through MDOT regulations and review. These projects could be bid out with the local projects, also saving the Townships money by getting better quantity pricing.

A motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Battan, to adopt the Resolution to proceed in entering an agreement with the Delta County Dept. of Roads. for the exchange of non-federal aid dollars.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

POLICY 28/ TITLE VI-REVISION AND REPLACEMENT OF SECTION X AND XI.

Finance Director Johnson had provided the Policy Committee with the revisions to Section X. Filing a Complaint and Section XI. Investigation, as required by the MDOT Statewide Title VI Coordinator.

Moved by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak, to adopt the revisions of the Title VI policy as submitted.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

EOY 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Finance Director Johnson presented the end of year budget amendments for 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak to accept the amendments as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

UPDATE ON FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS

Finance Director Johnson updated the Board: The 9-month CD with MultiBank Securities matured in January, with an interest paid of \$9,041.10. The principal \$250,000 was reinvested in a one- year CD at Miners State Bank. For the year of 2023, Iron CRC was paid \$50,446.53 in bank interest. As the MERS EOY reports are not yet available, a projection from the GoInvest Tool was provided to the Board to estimate the funding level of the Pension. The OPEB report was also provided. Management will be meeting with Terra Langham from MERS to discuss possibilities going forward.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS-FHWA FLOOD DISASTER PERMANENT REPAIRS

Interim Supt. Toivonen reviewed the comparative sheet of bids for the Professional Engineering of the FHWA

Emergency Response, compiled using the Local Agency Guidelines for MDOT project submittal. He feels that because of the vast experience OHM and UPEA both have dealing with ER projects and MDOT, most recently the Father's Day flooding in Houghton, that those companies are his first choice. UPEA, at the lower of the

two, has a bid of \$95,000, which he believes would cover all the specifics and requirements necessary for the six sites. The projects are required to go through the MDOT letting process.

Commissioner Germic asked why the lowest bid, submitted by Wickwire, would not suffice. Brad's concern is that the lowest bid is so much less than the others due to the inexperience of the company. Some items required, such as hydraulic analysis and wetland mitigation were not addressed in Wickwire's bid. Anything that was missed would be an add-on later, cost more money and push the project back.

A motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Battan, to accept the bid from UPEA in the amount of \$95,000 as recommended by Interim Supt. Toivonen.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

CRA BALLOT-CRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak, cast a vote for Doug Mills, P.E., Baraga.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

QUAD AXEL TRUCK BOX

Shop Foreman Stolberg informed the Board that the box for truck #320 has been red-tagged and cannot be used. He has not been able to find a used steel replacement box. The chassis is still in good shape. One quote has already been received, he is currently waiting on two others. Supt. Toivonen is requesting approval to spend up to \$50,000 on the purchase of a new quad axel truck box once all quotes have been received. We would be using some of the money originally budgeted for the bridge rehab, since we will not be able to move forward on that this year.

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Germic, to authorize the purchase of a steel box for truck #320, up to the amount of \$50,000.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

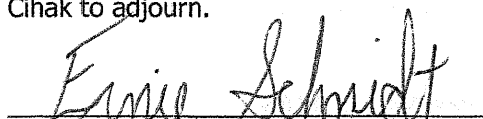
None.

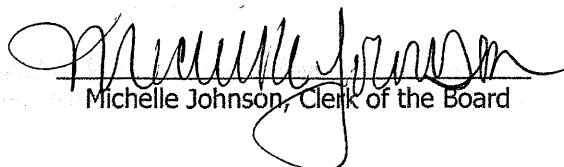
COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

None.

Interim Supt. Toivonen added that Senate Bill 465, directing motorists to stay at least 200' behind the plow, is moving through Legislature. There is some information on our website about this to help reach the public. Senate Bill 630 & 630 regarding the tort law is also going through the Senate.

At 9:58 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Battan, supported by Cihak to adjourn.


Ernie Schmidt, Chairman


Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD
COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, county road agencies may transfer federal highway aid available to them to other county road agencies for certain purposes subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Transportation ("MDOT") and Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA"). 23 U.S.C. 126; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County, Michigan ("Iron") has determined that it is in its best interest to exchange available federal aid funds for non-federal transportation dollars to enable the most efficient use of dollars and cost-effective performance of improvements to its county road system; and

WHEREAS, Iron has identified the Delta County Department of Roads - Delta County ("Delta") as a county road agency it is interested in exchanging federal aid with; and

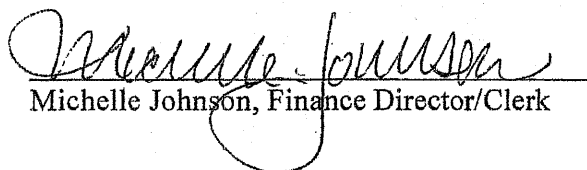
WHEREAS, Iron would agree to set the rate of exchange at \$0.80 of non-federal transportation funds for each \$1.00 of STP funds; and

WHEREAS, Iron desires to exchange an estimated \$764,000 of current STP funds available in fiscal year 2025 for non-federal transportation dollars with Delta, and

WHEREAS, county road agencies in Michigan are authorized to enter into voluntary exchange agreements with other local road agencies for the purpose of exchanging federal aid funds with state transportation dollars pursuant to Section 402 of Public Act 252 of 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County, Michigan, by adoption of this resolution, may proceed to enter into an agreement with Delta that would allow for said exchange to occur, and to authorize Interim Superintendent/Manager Bradley P. Toivonen to sign such agreement on behalf of Iron.

This is to certify that the resolution above is a true copy of a resolution passed by a majority vote of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County, Michigan, at a meeting held on the 13th day of February, 2024, and which was duly spread upon the minutes of said meeting, the record of which is on file at the office of said Commission at Iron River, Michigan.


Michelle Johnson, Finance Director/Clerk

FHWA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

2023 SPRING FLOODING EVENT
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Work Description	OHM	UPEA	GEI	Coleman	Wick Wire
Mdot 5323 Form	Yes	Yes	No MNFI	Yes	Yes
Mdot Section 106	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mdot 0206 Prog Application	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mdot Work Zone Safety Form 0369	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Mention	Yes
Possible property Acquisition - (Right of way)	No & assume 66'	Yes - 2 Sites	No -Icrc Responsible	No	No Mention
Contact All Public Agencies	Not Mention	Not Mention	Not Mention	No Mention	No Mention
Railroad - DSTR	NA	NA	NA	Mentioned not needed	NA
Mdot Trunkline Permit	Yes	Not Mention	Not Mention	No Mention	No Mention
Mdot Traffic Control etc	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Soil Borings	1 each var depth	1 each - 20'	1 each - 15' (sub)	No Mention	1 each (sub)
HMA Coring	1 each + 5' bore	1 each	1 each	No Mention	1 each (sub)
Hydraulic Analysis	Yes	Yes	No (extra)	Yes	No Mention
Topo Survey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wetland Delineation	No	Yes	No	No	No Mention
EGLE Wetland Permit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Log / Plans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utility Coordination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost Estimate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GI Package Submittal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GI Meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GI Corrections and Resubmittal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Timeline to Meet Feary 2025 Letting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Answer Bid Questions	Not Mention	Yes	No Mention	Yes	Yes
Extra permit fees of \$1,000	assume no fees	No Mention	Icrc Responsible	No Mention	No Mention

TOTAL COST OF ALL 6 SITES = \$170,000.00 \$95,000.00 \$83,000.00 \$82,870.00 \$24,800.00

Iron County Road Commission
 Budget Request Form
 Program Budget

Approved
 2/13/2024

Account Name	Revenue Increase (Decrease)	Expenditures & Fund Balance Increase (Decrease)
Revenues:		
Millage	394.11	
Primary Roads Heavy Maint.	59,853.00	
MTF	109,580.00	
Local Roads Heavy Maint.		
State Trunkline Non-Maint.	(292,000.92)	
Salvage and sales		
Permits	200.00	
Interest Income	1,066.53	
 Expenditures:		
Primary Roads-Heavy Maintenance		(42,389.49)
Local Roads-Heavy Maint		24,965.93
Equipment Expense-Direct		69,988.26
Equipment Expense-Indirect		20,427.40
Equipment Expense-Operating		(20,157.00)
Equipment Rentals		(49,740.23)
Admin. Expense		28,540.00
State Trunkline Non-Maint.		(291,585.86)
Capital Outlay-Depreciation		(61,471.93)
Interest Expense		(507.00)
<hr/>		
TOTALS:	(120,907.28)	(321,929.92)
Estimated Change in Fund Balance	(442,837.20)	
2022 EOY Act 51 Fund Balance	2,445,611.96	Total estimated
Estimated Change in FB from Amend. #3	134,504.00	Incr/(Decr) in FB
Estimated Change in FB from Amend. #4	(63,919.86)	327,136.29
Estimated Change in FB from Amend. #5	55,529.51	
Estimated Change in FB from Amend. #6	201,022.64	
New Estimated EOY Fund Balance	2,772,748.25	