

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Monday, June 10, 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 Jim Cihak, Chuck Battan and Dan Germic, Also, present were Superintendent Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Patti Leonoff, Foremen Rob Johnson and Dean Stolberg, Retired Former Superintendent/Manager Doug Tomasoski, P.E., Iron County Commissioner Ean Bruette, and Attorney Mark Tousignant.

Zoom attendees-Andrew Spica-MCRCSIP, Molly Ombrello, Anthony Camomilli,

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

The following minutes were presented: Audit and Regular of May 14, 2024. Commissioner Battan's vote was not included in the roll call vote of Disbursements to be approved and needs to be added.

A motion by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Frailing to accept the above minutes, with the corrections.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The following minutes were presented: Public Hearing of May 14, 2024.

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

The disbursements to be approved included:

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 138,733.00
b. Prepaid Claims of:	57,620.44
c. Accounts Payables of:	177,059.34

Total:	\$ 373,412.78
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Motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated May 31, 2024, covering the above disbursements.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Interim Supr. Toivonen reviewed his report:

Fuel Update- Fuel was delivered to Iron River 5-16 and Oss 6-6.

Sand-Email to MoCorp last week with 2024 sand order, detailing 9000 T to each garage, with 2023 pricing on 3,700T/Oss to get prior year quantity shortages caught up. Haven't received confirmation from Gene.

Gravel:

Looking into the possibility of future gravel crushing near four corners for Deer Lk. Rd. and Bone Lk. Rd. We have received compliments on the South end of Deer Lk. Rd. graveling that was done.

Iron City Crushing- Amasa Pit crushing is under way and the gravel is looking good; will have Coleman Engineering do some gravel testing soon.

Primary Roads:

CR 424 Phase 5- Waiver letters have been submitted to MDOT for a few oversight issues from last year.

CR 424 Phase 6- Preconstruction meeting is set for June 13th at 2pm., with construction beginning early August. First impressions indicate that the curve correction superelevation will be able to be incorporated into this project, which would be a savings.

Baumgartner Phase 4- Eden Dr. to S. of Snipe Lake Pub: Bacco will complete pulverizing today; paving will begin later this week.

Brule Mountain Rd Phase 5- Pitlik & Wik- paving was done the week of Memorial Day and the road rides very nice. Shouldering to begin today.

Pavement Marking- PK will be doing Bates-Amasa Rd. this week, 424 and Stager Lake crossings to be done later.

FHWA-ER Program 2023 Flooding-GI meeting is set June 10th, 1pm, to review all sites. The Baumgartner Rd. site culvert replacement needs both a temporary easement (to perform the replacement) and a permanent easement (if issues arise in the future). A public hearing is set for June 27, 2024, at 1pm. The property is owned by the Federal Forest Service and a Right of Entry permit was submitted so the project can continue during the potentially long process of obtaining a permanent easement.

Local Roads:

2024 Local Projects-Pakkala Rd. is being paved today, West Townline to follow.

Equipment:

Chassis-Delivery is on time; Western Star is expected in a month, with the International a month after that. Wings have been ordered and delivery is expected in September.

Office Copier- Michelle got a good price through MiDeal to purchase a new color copier/scanner for the office. Delivery is expected on Wednesday, and it will pay for itself in about a year. The maintenance contract for this new machine is \$160.00/yr. less than the current outdated machine.

Quad axel boxes are on order. Trucks are ready for the new boxes to be installed.

Employment:

HR-PR Admin/ Asst. Finance Director- Six applications were received and interviews with the four most qualified candidates were held on May 23rd. Brynn Tomas was chosen, and she will begin on June 17th.

Bridges:

Idlewild Rd.-Fortune Cr.-The President of the Fortune Lake Assoc. reached out for an update on the status of bridge replacement. The design is on hold for MDOT review until funding is secured. The regional bridge committee will make selections in October for 2027 construction. The Association has concerns about the height of the bridge and the possibility of raising it to accommodate pontoon boats.

FH-16 N & S. Branches Paint River-Determinations to be made in October for 2027 construction by the regional bridge committee.

Wild Rivers-Iron River Culvert Crossing- Bette Premo has submitted paperwork for SOGL grant funding, with determinations in October. As such, she has begun requesting extensions for current grant sources for 2025.

Miscellaneous:

MCRCSIP- Subcontractor on site 6/5 to take pictures and get info for property appraisal values as needed for insurance. They routinely do this on a five-year cycle to physically reassess properties and contents.

Break from the Superintendent Report to accommodate the Zoom Meeting for Old Business.**OLD BUSINESS****PETITION FOR PARTIAL ABANDONMENT OF TREELINE DR.**

Ms. Ombrello, legal representative for Peterson and Camomilli, offered that there were easement possibilities in progress between the Kuhls, Peterson and Camomilli's and additionally the possibility of offering an easement to Dean Stolberg. She has not seen any interest from any other property owner obtaining a similar easement. She is requesting the decision on the abandonment be tabled till the next meeting to allow further discussions to take place, in an effort to partially satisfy all parties. Her clients are willing to set up a conference call with the Road Commission toward that goal.

Commissioner Schmidt felt that the right-of-way where the Peterson driveway lies should be excluded from the petition because we do currently snowplow past his driveway and use the area for a turn around. Moreover, he reiterated that the property owners on the north/south side of Treeline should be included in the easement.

Property owner Dean Stolberg submitted a letter to the Board that will be forwarded to the Road Commission attorney.

Motion by Commissioner Germic, with support from Battan to table the decision on the abandonment of Treeline Dr. until the July 16th, 2024, meeting, with a Zoom call scheduled at 9:00 a.m.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Resume Superintendents Report

Fiber Optic: AEG-Approximately 60 permits have been approved, mainly up the US141 corridor and going West along US2 from Oss Rd. to Iron River. The crews are having issues here with the rocky soil and are not making progress as quickly as they expected. Permits are being approved in conjunction to the location of crews to keep progress moving forward. Met with AEG GEI and Highline on June 4th. AEG crews in Gogebic will be wrapping up in two weeks and heading here.

JSI/Midway has returned the signed Third-Party Inspection agreement. Permits are being submitted for review and approval now, with work to begin in the fall. This way permits can be revised and corrected before the work is scheduled to begin. The deposit must be submitted prior to work starting.

Teamsters-We will be having a meeting with the Union rep June 25th to discuss health insurance options offered.

Perma-Zyme Demo-The CEO declined the test strip at this time.

Drain Commissioner- There has been an excessive amount of beaver activity at all three regulated lakes. Stager Lake has large beaver dams in front of the weir, Fortune Lake has them below the dam, causing backup and Sunset Lake recently had a complete blockage on one of the outlets. Additional trappers are being lined up.

Superintendent Toivonen and Commissioner Schmidt thanked Patti and Michelle for doing a great job with the audit and Act 51.

DELEGATIONS

County Commissioner Bruette relayed information from the County Board, reiterating that the budget allocated is ours to use for the drain commissioner duties, whether we do it ourselves or contract it out. Finance Director Johnson reported that we are more than halfway through the \$10,000 budget for 2024 already. There was further discussion about the inspections being costly, and there are years, like this year, where the beaver activity causes major issues.

Superintendent Toivonen brought up the fact that the County of Iron does not currently have any easements or right of way access for obtaining access to any of the dams, nor does the Road Commission in carrying out drain commission duties. There are some powers granted to the drain commission to obtain access. Additionally, one of the properties by the Sunset dam is or will be for sale in the near future. Commissioner Schmidt offered that if any major repairs or replacements needed to happen, there are no roads to get to the dams with equipment. Attorney Tousignant said that the drain commission can assess a special assessment to property owners around the lake to pay for things like the repairs and replacement of a dam. The County has a responsibility to participate in making sure the requirements of the court order are met and would have to be involved in creating the assessment. Commissioner Germic asked who decided to obtain a court order to dictate the lake levels; Mark said the petition was brought before the court by the property owners around the lake and based on engineering reports, the normal level of the lake is determined. Because the property owners requested the court order mandated levels, they can be assessed to help fund what is necessary to maintain it. He used the Indian Lake special assessment as an example.

Foreman Rob Johnson brought forth that the dams on Stager Lake and Fortune Lake are not in the best shape. There is rotting wood on the decks and while the dam themselves look all right, the structures were put in at the same time as the decking and are aged and may need work in the next couple of years. There was discussion about getting quotes on work that needs to be done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

MDOT ENGINEERING REIMBURSEMENT

Motion by Frailing, supported by Germic, to request the Engineering Reimbursement from MDOT for 7/1/23-6/30/24 in the amount of \$10,000.

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

USED UTILITY TRUCK

Woodland has a 2019 2500 Chevy utility truck for sale that would be a good fit for the shop. We are currently short on pickups which creates issues when there are service calls, especially if Dean is out with his truck already.

Following discussion, and a recommendation by the Equipment Committee, there was a motion by Commissioner Germic, with support from Battan, to authorize the purchase of the 2019 Chevy 2500 utility truck, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE-DOUGLAS TOMASOSKI, P.E.

As presented by Chairman Ernie Schmidt:

Whereas, DOUGLAS CLYDE TOMASOSKI has been employed by the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County for 29 years and 5 months, and,

Whereas, DOUGLAS CLYDE TOMASOSKI has faithfully and diligently performed the many job duties assigned to him during the course of his employment with the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County; and,

Whereas, DOUGLAS CLYDE TOMASOSKI has retired effective May 30, 2024.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County recognize and thank DOUGLAS CLYDE TOMASOSKI for his many accomplishments and years of service, and congratulate him on his retirement; and,

Be it further resolved, that DOUGLAS CLYDE TOMASOSKI be presented with a gift of money and a copy of this resolution, and, that a copy of this resolution shall be made a permanent record of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County.

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT!!!

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, with support from Germic, that effective immediately Interim Superintendent Toivonen will now be the permanent Superintendent of the Iron County Road Commission.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL

- CRASIF-Call for Board Trustee Candidates
- Financial Audit FY2023 is complete, and Act 51 has been submitted.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Tousignant updated the Board on the easement request received from the property owner on Smokey Lake Rd. The property in question is owned by the County; the Road Commission is no longer a Trustee, and the property owner was instructed to contact them. Historically, revocable licenses are done in these instances, not permanent easements.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Schmidt thanked Doug again for all his years of service and congratulated him on his retirement.

Superintendent Toivonen asked whether the Park and Rec. Committee was involved in the Heritage Trail; it has not been brought to the Park and Rec. meetings. Doug believed it was a separate, yet related committee that had been handling it, prior to COVID.

At 10:14 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Germic, supported by Battan to adjourn.


Ernie Schmidt, Chairman


Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board