

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 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, and Commissioners Jim Cihak and Chuck Battan. Vice-Chairman Ron Frailing and Commissioner Dan Germic attended via Zoom as non-voting members. Also, present: Superintendent/ Manager Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Patti Leonoff, Shop Foreman Dean Stolberg, Maintenance Foreman Rob Johnson, Bates Twp. Supervisor Mike Stafford, Mastodon Twp. Trustee Dave Smith, Ean Bruette, County Commissioner, Attorney Mark Tousignant, and Ken Zanon, Resident.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Moved by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, audit and regular meetings with the following corrections: Roll call- remove duplicate mention of Commissioner Frailing and add Commissioner Germic. New Business-CRA 2025-2026 Board of Directors 4-year seat motion was made by Commissioner Frailing.

Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 186,894.20
b. Prepaid Claims of:	173,775.28
c. Accounts Payables of:	175,109.09

Total: \$ 535,778.57

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated February 28, 2025, covering the above disbursements.

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

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Toivonen reviewed his report.

Primary Roads:

The bids for CR 424 PH7 and Hagerman Lake PH1 came in under the engineers' estimate, 5% and 8% respectively. A Board resolution authorizing the sale of federal aid for the next phases of both projects in 2026 will be in the April meeting. The final invoice for the preliminary engineering of the FHWA 2023 spring flood ER projects has been submitted and approved by MDOT for reimbursement. The projects are slated for an April 4th letting, and the selection of the consulting firm for construction engineering will need to be done.

Local Roads:

All bids came in and were high, partially because the local contractor we have utilized in past years as low bidder has shut down. EGLE permits for Trybom Dr. have been approved, and bids will go out for the aluminum box culvert needed, with the project being done mid- August to mid-September.

No abandonment petition has been received on the Little Finland/ Morrison Creek gate issue. Mark suggested that if it does get submitted, the property owners will save themselves some money if they provide evidence of clear title versus him doing it and charging it back.

While the property owner that dragged the cabin down Rock Crusher Rd had contacted the road commission for a permit, he was informed that further inspection and information needed to be provided before a permit could be issued. This did not occur, and a permit was not issued by the road commission for the move.

Bids came in under for the Barry Rd./ Section 19 disaster relief project, and it is expected that all engineering and construction costs should be under the grant awarded amount of \$250,000.

Fleet / Equipment:

The 2024 International is expected to be delivered early May 2025. The Western Star build is completed up to the point of the wing, but there is still no updated wing delivery date. Dean has reached out to other companies for pricing and availability, without much luck. We may end up putting the box on so the truck can be used in the spring and summer, then taking it back off for the wing install when it is received.

One of the new pickups is at the dealer getting the plow controls etc. outfitted.

Michelle is working on quotes for tablets as a replacement for the kiosk's and for pre-trip inspections.

JD Grader leases are up this fall and the CAT's are up next fall; Marquette CRC is interested in buying all four.

Employment Items:

Heavy Equip. Operator position was posted in house; our Mechanic's Aid signed. Advertisement is out, with a March 21st deadline for other applicants. We will see what we get for applicants before deciding how many to hire. Applications for summer help are due March 21st and applications for the Mechanic's Aid position are due April 4th. Interviews for the HR-PR Admin. are being held March 12th.

Bridges:

Resort Drive-Since Crystal Falls Twp. does not want to take over the bridge for the bike path, an email has been sent to Ayers about opening the bridge with a lowered load limit. We are still looking for solutions to keep the bike path moving forward. MDOT does not want it on the state trunkline.

Misc:

Scheduled depositions were held last week for the Treeline Dr. lawsuit, with a trial date of June 3-5, 2025, if the defendants proceed forward.

The Earned Sick Leave Act that passed on February 21st has caused necessary policy changes regarding summer temporary employment and earned sick leave for all employees. Drafts will be forwarded to the Policy Committee for review. The changes currently pertain only to the Non-Union, Temp. and Seasonal employees; the Union employees will not be affected until the expiration of the current contract. Information was provided to the Board in their packets to review in anticipation of next month's meeting.

Seasonal weight restrictions went on 3-3-25. We implemented Oxcart for permitting on the same day and this is the only way permits will be issued. OS/OW and seasonal permits are live; ROW permits will be added very soon. Once we are familiar with all aspects of the program, a lot of time will be saved; the responsibility for all the required information being submitted for the permit falls back to the requestor. Previously we usually had to chase down information because it was often missing or incorrect.

The Parks and Rec Committee had inquired about the road commission making some improvements near Cooks Run, but because the road/driveway to the cabin is not a county road, we would have to charge to do any work. A quick estimate, without any prep work, was approx. \$8,000.

Fiber Optic:

Trueline is no longer in business and Highline is restructuring some things as a result. The West Townline Rd. relocation of conduit has been ongoing and hopefully will be done this week.

DELEGATIONS

Bates Township Supervisor Mike relayed an issue from Ken Willis pertaining to a seasonal restriction sign. Mastodon Township Trustee Dave Smith asked questions about graveling within the Township. County Commissioner Bruette relayed some compliments he received about plowing during and after last week's winter storm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Zanon, resident, relayed some questions and concerns over Homer Rd.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**RESOLUTION: FH-16 N & S PAINT RIVER BRIDGES**

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 from Battan.

Ayes- All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: CR 424 PH7 MDOT CONTRACT

The resolution for the signing of the CR 424 PH7 contract 25-5158 (TED D funding) was adopted in a motion by Commissioner Battan, with support from Cihak.

Ayes-All. Nays-None. Motion carried.

2025 LOCAL PROJECT BIDS

The bids for the local township projects were supplied as informational to the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to accept the low bid of \$312,712 as submitted by Pitlik & Wick for the Hagerman Lake Rd. PH1 ICRC federal aid buyout project.

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

Moved by Commissioner Battan, support by Cihak, to accept the low bid of \$467,907.60 as submitted by Payne & Dolan for the CR 424 PH7 ICRC federal aid buyout project.

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

CULVERT BID-BARRY RD. SECTION 19

Motion by Commissioner Battan, with support from Cihak, to accept the low bid of \$168,434, submitted by Ruotsala Construction, Inc. for the box culvert replacement as recommended by UPEA Architects and Engineers.

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

2025 CONSTRUCTION BIDS

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

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, with support from Battan, to accept the lowest bid as summarized for each material bid.

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

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

2025 CULVERT BIDS

The culvert bid summary was provided by Supt. Toivonen with the recommendation to accept the lowest bid as submitted.

Motion by Commissioner Battan, with support from Cihak, to accept the lowest bid as summarized.

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

MDOT FY2022 STATE TRUNKLINE AUDIT REPORT

Finance Director Johnson presented the MDOT Trunkline Audit Report for contract year 2022.

OPEB TRUST PAYMENT

Finance Director Johnson presented the OPEB Actuarial for FY 2024. In alignment with the MERS RHFV Resolution of 2024, the Board annual contribution will be based on the actuary from the previous year.

Motion by Commissioner Battan, with support from Cihak, to pay the normal cost liability of \$47,192 as of December 31, 2024, into the trust.

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

MERS UPDATE

Finance Director Johnson updated the Board on both the MERS Defined Benefit plan and MERS RHFV Trust as of year-end.

At of 12-31-24, the defined benefit plan is estimated to be at 74.4% funded and the balance in the Trust is 11,934.14.

ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

At 9:54 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

Board of County Road Commissioners



Ernie Schmidt, Chairman
 Ron Frailing, Vice Chairman
 Chuck Battan, Member
 Dan Germic, Member
 Jim Cihak, Member

Of
IRON COUNTY
 800 W. Franklin Street
 IRON RIVER, MI 49935-1047

Telephone: (906) 265-6686
 FAX: (906) 265-6680
www.ironcountyroads.com

Bradley P. Toivonen,
 Interim Superintendent/ Mngr.

Michelle Johnson
 Finance Director/Clerk

Patti Leonoff,
 HR-PR/Assist. Finance Director

March 11, 2025

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN is actively seeking participation in the preventative maintenance of the bridges on FH-16 across the N & S Branches of the Paint River:

And, **WHEREAS** the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN considers these bridges to be a priority in Iron County:

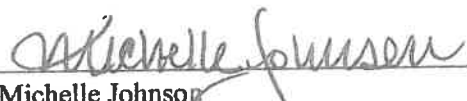
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN hereby approve the application as submitted.

Ayes: All-Commissioners Cihak, Battan and Schmidt

Nays: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting by The Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County, this day of March 11, 2025.

Signed:


 Michelle Johnson
 Finance Director/Clerk

Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer



Board of County Road Commissioners Of IRON COUNTY

800 W. Franklin Street
IRON RIVER, MI 49935-1047

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Patti Leonoff,
HR-PR/Assist. Finance Director

Ernie Schmidt, Chairman
Ron Frailing, Vice Chairman
Chuck Battan, Member
Dan Germic, Member
Jim Cihak, Member

March 11, 2025

Michigan Department of Transportation
Development Services Division, 2nd Floor
P. O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
Attn: MDOT Agreements Staff

Commissioner Battan offered the following resolution which was supported by Commissioner Cihak and duly adopted:

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN has received the following Michigan Department of Transportation contract:

Control Section	EDD 36000
Job Number	218724CON
Contract No	25-5158
Location	County Road 424

And **WHEREAS**, the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN desires to contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for:

Hot mix asphalt reconstruction along County Road 424 from Blue Lake Pit to Rysberg Hill; and all together with necessary related work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN hereby authorizes Superintendent/Manager Bradley P. Toivonen and Finance Director/Clerk Michelle Johnson to sign the above referenced contract.

On a roll call vote- Ayes- All-Commissioners Cihak, Battan and Schmidt
Nays - None
Motion carried.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution offered and duly adopted by the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Iron at a regular meeting held this 11th day of March 2025.

Signed: 
Michelle Johnson
Finance Director/Clerk

Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer



IRON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

2025 LOCAL PROJECT

(AS CHECKED SUBMITTED BIDS)

[illegible]



100 Portage Street Houghton, MI 49931

906-482-4810 • 800-562-7684 • Fax: 906-482-9799

March 5, 2025

Board of Iron County Road Commission
Iron County Road Commission
800 W. Franklin Street
Iron River, Michigan 49935

RE: Barry Road Culvert Replacement – Recommendation for Award

Dear Commissioners:

Six (6) bids were received, opened and read aloud at 11:00 AM CT on March 5, 2025 at the office of Iron County Road Commission for the Barry Road Culvert Replacement Project. Upon further evaluation, one (1) bid was found nonresponsive.

The tabulation of the “as-checked” responsive bids are as follows:

• Ruotsala Construction, Inc.	\$168,434.00
• Bacco Construction Company	\$199,332.00
• Payne and Dolan, Inc.	\$215,845.00
• WR Construction, LLC	\$214,063.03
• Hebert Construction Company	\$216,189.00

It is the recommendation of U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc., that the Iron County Road Commission move to award the contract for the Barry Road Culvert Replacement Project to the low responsible & responsive bidder, Ruotsala Construction, Inc. of Ironwood, Michigan, in the amount of \$168,434.00.

Furthermore, there is currently no information that would lead us to believe that the Contractor does not have the necessary equipment and personnel to complete the project in compliance with the drawings and specifications within reasonable tolerances accepted in the trade; and in the time allotted for the project.

Sincerely,

U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc.

Joshua A. Harju, P.E.
Project Manager, UPEA Associate

cc: Brad Toivonen, Superintendent/Manager

Offices also in:
Iron Mountain
Ishpeming
Marinette
Sault Ste Marie

U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc.

www.UPEA.com

Iron County Road Commission
2025 Construction Materials Bid Summary -

(added cold patch - Midwest + Pitlik&Wick)

	PK Contracting	Midwest Gravel Inc.	Pitlik & Wick	Payne & Dolan	P & T Products (Surface Coatings)(GemSeal)	Sherwin Industries, Inc
Pavement Marking						
Regular Dry	2019 (0.055/0.055/0.097/180/2) 2020 (0.053/0.052/0.093/180/2) 2021 (0.063/0.062/0.093/180/2)					
Yellow, 4 inch (per foot)	\$0.089					
White, 4 inch (per foot)	\$0.089					
White, 6 inch (per foot)	\$0.140					
Railroad Symbol (per each)	\$200.00					
24" Stop Bar (per foot)	\$4.00					
6" cross walk (per foot)						
Waterborne	2019 (0.052/0.052/0.078/180/2) 2020 (0.053/0.052/0.078/180/2) 2021 (0.053/0.052/0.078/180/2)					
Yellow, 4 inch (per foot)	\$0.064					
White, 4 inch (per foot)	\$0.062					
White, 6 inch (per foot)	\$0.093					
Railroad Symbol (per each)	\$180.00					
24" Stop Bar (per foot)	\$3.00					
6" cross walk (per foot)						
HPS-4 (white or yellow)	2019 (0.50/0.50/500/5.50) 2020 (0.50/0.50/500/5.50) 2021 (1.05/1.05/500/7.50)					
Application & Inlay	\$10,000 min order					
Centerline	2.55 / foot					
Edgeline	2.55 / foot					
Railroad Symbol (per each)	\$600.00					
24" Stop Bar (per foot)	\$15.00					
Overlay Application	2019 (0.70/0.70/350/5.00) 2020 (0.70/0.70/350/5.00) 2021 (0.95/0.95/450/5.50)					
Centerline	\$10,000 min order					
Edgeline	1.55 / foot					
Railroad Symbol (per each)	\$475.00					
24" Stop Bar (per foot)	\$12.00					
Cold Patch Material		standard	PW-12 standard / PW-7	CP-7		
F.O.B. plant site		No Bid Received	\$96.00 / \$108.00	\$148.00		
Delivered to Crystal Falls			\$120.00 / \$132.00	\$170.30		
Delivered to Iron River			\$115.00 / \$127.00	\$170.30		
				\$164.00*		
	2021 → (-78/-)	(84/103/98 // 94/113/108)	(130 / 145.15 / 145.15)			
	2020 → (90/94/96)	(82/101/98.8 // 92/111/108.8)				
	2019 → (108/116/119)	(79/98/93.3 // 89/107/103)	(130 / 145.15 / 145.15)			
	2018 → (79/84/86)	(75/93.7/89.3 // 85/103.7/99.3)	(118 / 133.15 / 133.15)			
			* approx 50 ton loads for deliv.			
			25-30 ton loads price			
Crackfill Material						based on 45,000 lb per load
Crafco Type 2 (FOB)					NO BID RECEIVED	NA
Crafco Type 2 (delivered CF)					NO BID RECEIVED	\$0.5539 (ship fr Dekalb, IL)
				2021 → Dura-Fill 820 / Dura-Fill 1190 NR		\$0.6618 (ship fr Hells Youngston)
				\$0.51 / \$0.51		\$0.4925
				2020 → Dura-Fill 820 / Dura-Fill 1190 NR		\$0.4850
				\$0.490 / \$0.449 / \$0.485		\$0.4950
				2019 → Dura-Fill 820 / Dura-Fill 1190 NR		
				\$0.490 / \$0.449 / \$0.485		
				2018 → \$0.430 / \$0.470		
						* 100 lb loads / 100 ft / 100 ft / 100 ft
						0.42 / 0.455 / 0.425 / 0.405 / 0.385
PK Contracting	Midwest Gravel	Pitlik & Wick	Payne & Dolan	P & T Products	Sherwin Indust.	
6344 W. Blue Rd.	1910 N. Stephenson Ave	8075 County D	801 Clark Drive	472 Industrial Pkwy	2129 W. Morgan Ave	
Lake City, MI	Iron Mountain, MI	Eagle River, WI	Gladstone, MI	Sandusky, OH	Milwaukee, WI	
49651	49801	54521	49837	44870	53221	
P-231-839-4430	P-906-774-0377	P-715-479-7488	P-906-428-5108	P-419-621-1988 / cell 231-883-3030	P-414-281-6400	
F-231-839-4737	F-906-774-0488	F-715-479-7438	F-906-428-2623	F-231-266-9081 / 419/621/1988	F-414-281-6404	
Douglas J. Kinkema	Kevin Romitti	Brian Pitlik	Tom Ritter	Sonya Flanagan	Randy S. Jackson	
doug@pkcontracting.com	officemanager@midwestgravel.com	bpitlik@pitlikandwick.com	tritter@walbecgroup.com	flanagansales@aol.com	nackson@sherwinindustries.com	
Mobile: 231-590-3366					P-715-531-8119	
					Dennis Fleischman	

2025 Culvert Bid Summary

CMP	Arch No.	Gage	Wt/ft	Contech		Metal Culverts		Cadillac Culvert		U.P. Concrete		Miller Supply	
				Galvanized (spiral)	Aluminized (spiral)	Galvanized (riveted)	Aluminized (riveted)	Galvanized (spiral)	Aluminized (spiral)	Galvanized (spiral)	Aluminized (spiral)	Galvanized (spiral)	Aluminized (spiral)
				\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft	\$ / ft
	15	16	13	18.66	19.59	22.10	23.30	14.95	17.49	14.17	15.57	18.40	19.32
	18	16	15	22.23	23.34	25.90	27.35	18.00	19.18	17.26	18.91	21.92	23.01
	21	16	18	26.02	27.32	30.10	31.85	21.23	22.75	20.28	22.30	25.67	26.95
	24	14	25	37.32	39.19	43.30	45.80	28.19	26.08	28.06	30.90	36.81	38.65
	30	14	31	43.02	45.17	52.70	55.70	38.06	40.72	35.85	39.17	42.42	44.54
	36	12	51	70.25	73.76	87.00	91.95	55.20	59.05	56.43	63.48	69.28	72.74
Diameter	12	16	10	13.73	14.42	16.35	17.30	11.25	13.20	11.07	12.18	13.54	14.22
	15	16	13	17.26	18.14	20.55	21.75	13.85	16.20	13.48	14.83	17.04	17.89
	18	16	15	20.58	21.61	24.45	25.80	16.68	19.35	16.38	18.02	20.30	21.31
	21	16	18	24.09	25.29	28.30	29.90	19.67	22.97	19.30	21.24	23.76	24.96
	24	16	20	27.36	28.73	32.70	34.55	22.65	26.44	21.24	23.36	27.00	28.33
	30	14	31	39.83	41.82	50.50	53.35	35.25	40.18	33.90	37.29	39.28	41.24
	36	14	37	47.79	50.18	60.20	63.65	44.39	47.50	40.70	43.51	47.13	49.48
	42	12	60	74.39	78.11	98.90	104.55	64.40	71.06	62.62	68.87	73.36	77.02
	48	12	68	86.29	90.60	112.70	119.20	76.00	81.97	71.99	79.42	85.09	89.35
	54	12	78	96.91	101.76	128.45	135.80	91.65	98.98	83.96	92.52	95.56	100.72
	60	10	110	143.38	150.55	180.75	191.10	163.00	176.00	130.49	145.54	141.39	148.46
	66	10	121	154.58	162.31	198.20	209.50	179.40	193.75	142.31	158.73	152.43	160.05

Plastic				
Diameter				
12				
15				
18				
21				
24				
30				
36				
42				
48				
54				
60				
66				