

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, April 15, 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, Vice-Chairman Ron Frailing and Commissioners Dan Germic, Jim Cihak and Chuck Battan. Also, present: Superintendent/ Manager Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrators Emily Bieghler and Patti Leonoff, Shop Foreman Dean Stolberg, Bates Twp. Supervisor Mike Stafford, Ean Bruette, County Commissioner, Attorney Mark Tousignant, and Brian Schiavo, GEI Consultants.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Supt./Mngr. Toivonen requested the addition of the following: 11.l. Award RFP for the construction engineering of the buyout projects, and 11.m Permission to Award construction engineering for MDOT ER projects.

Motion by Commissioner Battan, with support from Frailing to accept the agenda with the above corrections.

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

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2025, audit and regular meetings.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 168,365.68
b. Prepaid Claims of:	179,591.99
c. Accounts Payables of:	352,914.52

Total: \$ 700,872.19

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated March 31, 2025, covering the above disbursements.

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

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Toivonen reviewed his report:

Primary Roads:

Payne and Dolan are tentatively starting on CR 424 PH7 and Hagerman Lake PH1 late August/ early September. RFP's for construction engineering are due April 18th. RFP's for consulting engineering on the Homer Rd-Sunset Creek culvert crossings have also been sent out, as EGLE permits will need to be obtained. These are due May 1st. The ER projects made the April 4th MDOT letting and came in only .5% over the engineers' estimates; Bacco was the low bid. Construction engineering RFP's are due April 18th. Preliminary application work for the Ottawa Lake Rd PH3 and FH-16 FLAP grants is on hold as all federal grants have been frozen by the administration.

Local Roads:

Chicagon Mine Rd. and Wagner Lk. Rd. projects have tentative start dates at the end of May. The culvert bids for Trybom Dr. are on the agenda for award; the low bid was \$33,400 from Miller Supply, Iron Mountain.

Mr. Shepard, the property owner at Little Finland/ Morrison Creek has been informed that the gate needs to be opened. An abandonment petition has not yet been filed, but a public hearing will need to be held if one is received.

A permit request was made regarding the cabin at Clark's Landing; the permit was denied.

RFP's for the Barry Rd. box culvert Section 19 project construction engineering are due April 18th. Work is expected to begin July/August with an October 10th completion date.

RFP's for the Iron Lake Rd.-Sunset Creek small bridge engineering services are due May 1st.

There are some inconsistencies with historical maps of Homecraft Rd; no decisions have been made on how to move forward.

Mastodon Township approved gravel work on Armstrong Lake, including the replacement of a culvert, to be bid out to a private contractor.

Bacco is anticipating beginning work on West Brule Lake Rd. in late August/ early September.

Fleet / Equipment:

Shop Foreman Stolberg is waiting to hear back for an updated delivery of the 2025 International. As there is still no date on the wings, the box will be installed on #293 so it can be put into service over the summer. Looking into a bigger skid steer to rent this summer, with the possibility of a purchase at the end of the rental term.

One of the new pickups has been received and is on the road; the second is at the dealer getting the plow controls installed.

Bids for the graders will go out in late June, to be due in August. The leases on the John Deere graders are up at the end of November, so we want to have the new machines in place at that time.

Samsara GPS/Cameras are working great, and we have been using them a lot with the winter weather.

Employment Items:

Emily Bieghler started April 7th as our new HR-PR Administrator. The applications for the HEOP and Mechanic's Aid positions were ranked, and interviews are set for April 25th. There are two HEOP and five Mechanic's Aid interviews scheduled. Six summer temp applications were received, and all will be offered a position. Looking into the possibility of doing internal CDL training in the future, there are a couple of other road commissions that have started this.

Bridges:

The FY2028 Local Bridge Program application for the FH-16 bridges has been officially confirmed as received by MDOT. A submission will be made for these bridges every year in hopes we can receive funding.

Supt./ Mngr. Toivonen presented a few different possibilities for the Resort Dr. bridge, including opening it with reduced load ratings, applying for bridge funding or abandonment. Ayers advised the bridge would likely need replacement in five to ten years if it were open to motorized traffic. Local Bridge Program funding is very unlikely to be received for this project. More information to come.

The Pentoga Rd. bridge project is moving forward, with a letting date of November 2027 and construction scheduled for 2028. While this project is 100% paid for by WisDot, there are some concerns about the differing guardrail requirements between WisDot and MDOT that may need to be addressed.

Misc:

Deyo/Stone was onsite for the contents inventory, as a necessary part of verifying for insurance and values. CPR training was held the week of April 7th by Tom Bucek at the Crystal Falls Fire Hall. Tom does an amazing job, and we appreciate him doing this for the road commission. A Work Zone Safety Training will be held at the Oss garage on May 15th, followed by a SAM meeting for our district.

Michigan Legislation has been working on road funding bills, increasing funds for primary and local roads. The bills are going to the Senate as passed by the House.

Seasonal weight restrictions went on 3-3-25 and are still in effect. Oxcart has been going well.

Fiber Optic:

The West Townline Rd. relocation of conduit was completed April 8th. Payment has not been received from Highline for the Townline Rd relocation project or the outstanding permits from last fall. JSI has been contacted regarding damage they caused to Rawnick Rd when they drilled down the center of it. We upgraded this road a few years ago and have had no problems; now it is near impassable. There are still communication issues between the contractors and GEI about receiving work schedules and following permits. The inspector spends more time trying to find them and figure out where work is being done than he should. Restoration for last year's installations will begin soon as expected to last a month or two.

DELEGATIONS

Bates Township Supervisor Mike Stafford also received complaints about the resident on Little Finland Rd.; the Township is in the process of updating ordinances. He feels the road commission and the township may have to work out a joint effort regarding the blight and encroachment issues on Little Finland once their blight ordinance has been updated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION: NON-FEDERAL AID EXCHANGE WITH HOUGHTON CRC

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic, to adopt the resolution to proceed with entering into an agreement with the Houghton County Road Commission for the exchange of FY2026 federal aid funds for non-federal aid dollars.

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

RESOLUTION: MDOT CONTRACT 25-5090 ER PROJECTS

Moved by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak to authorize the signing of MDOT contract 25-5090, contracting work for the six emergency response sites Basswood Rd, Bates-Amasa Rd, Baumgartner Rd, Ponozzo Rd, Smokey Lake Rd. and Warner Mine Rd.

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

POLICY 42-EARNED SICK TIME POLICY

Finance Dir. Johnson reviewed the Earned Sick Leave Policy, a result of the Earned Sick Time Act.

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, with support from Germic, to approve Policy 42- Earned Sick Time Policy.

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

TRYBOM DR. ALUMINUM BOX CULVERT-BID AWARD

A summary of bids received for the aluminum box culvert on Trybom Dr. was provided by Supt. Toivonen with the recommendation to accept the lowest bid.

Motion by Commissioner Battan, with support from Frailing, to accept the low bid of \$33,400 from Miller Products out of Iron Mountain.

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

POLICY 8-AMENDMENT 3- TEMPORARY SUMMER EMPLOYEES (HIRING OF)

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Germic, to approve amendment #3 to Policy 3- Temporary Summer Employees (Hiring of).

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

WAIVING DRUG TEST FEES-2025 SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Following discussion, motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Frailing to reimburse successful 2025 summer applicants the fees paid for their pre-employment drug tests.

Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

2025 SUMMER TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE WAGES

Motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to increase the wages for summer temporary employees by \$1.00, making the wage \$16 per hour.

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

2025 BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

Motion by Commissioner Germic, supported by Battan, to award Ayers the bid for the 2025 routine bridge inspections in the amount of \$5,440 and SNBI data collection in the amount of \$7,000.

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

DESIGN ENGINEERING-IRON RIVER SALT SHED

Moved by Commissioner Germic, supported by Cihak, to award the design engineering for the Iron River MDOT salt shed to UPEA Architects and Engineers in the amount of \$28,800.

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

SAFETY KITS

Following discussion about what types of first aid supplies we currently have in place, it was decided to purchase bleed kits to add to the first aid supplies for all the vehicles and garages. No Board action is necessary.

INFORMATIONAL-FY2024 FINANCIAL AUDIT IS UNDERWAY**AWARD RFP FOR CONST. ENGINEERING-BUYOUT PROJECTS**

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Cihak, to award the construction engineering bid to Coleman Engineering for Hagerman Lake Rd. Phase 1 in the amount of \$10,000 and CR424 Phase 7 in the amount of \$13,500.

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

PERMISSION TO AWARD CONST. ENGINEERING-MDOT ER PROJECTS

Supt./Mngr. Toivonen explained that the MDOT ER project construction engineering RFP's are due April 25th, the costs of which are included in the MDOT Contract 25-5090. He is requesting permission to award the C.E to the lowest bidder next Friday.

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan to authorize Supt/Mngr. Toivonen to award the construction engineering for the MDOT ER project to the lowest bidder.

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

ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

At 10:33 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Frailing, supported by Germic, 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 Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Houghton ("Houghton") 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 \$783,000 of current STP funds available in fiscal year 2026 for non-federal transportation dollars with Houghton, 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 Houghton that would allow for said exchange to occur, and to authorize 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 15th day of April, 2025, 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

Culvert Quote 2025-04-04 Bids Compilation Final 4/9/2025

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Michelle Johnson
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Emily Bieghler,
HR-PR/Assist. Finance Director

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

April 15, 2025

RESOLUTION

Commissioner Germic 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	ER 36000
Job Numbers	220616CON, 220617CON, 220618CON, 220619CON, 220622CON, 220623CON
Project Number	25A0306, 25A0305, 25A0307, 25A0308, 25A0309, 25A0310
CAFD No	20.205(Highway Research Planning & Construction)
Contract No	25-5090
Location	Iron County-multiple

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:

PART A – ER 36000; JOB #220616CON; 25A0306: Culvert replacement with aluminum box culvert and aggregate surface course along Basswood Road from approximately 3,495 feet west of Gold Mine Road westerly approximately 300 feet, including clearing, earthwork and riprap; and all together with necessary related work.

PART B – ER 36000; JOB #220617CON; 25A0305: Hot mix asphalt reconstruction of one lane along Bates-Amasa Road from approximately 7,650 feet north of Section 14 Road northerly 400 feet, including surface removal and paving, aggregate base conditioning, aggregate shoulders and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work

PART C – ER 36000; JOB #220618CON; 25A0307: Culvert replacement with arch pipe culvert and hot mix asphalt paving along Baumgartner Road from M-73 easterly approximately 200 feet, including earthwork, aggregate base, aggregate shoulders and riprap; and all together with necessary related work.

PART D – ER 36000; JOB #220619CON; 25A0308: Culvert replacement with arch pipe culvert and aggregate surface course along Ponzoso Road from approximately 4,925 feet north of US Forest Service Road 2197 northerly approximately 200 feet, including earthwork and riprap; and all together with necessary related work.

PART E – ER 36000; JOB #220622CON; 25A0309: Culvert replacement with precast concrete box culvert and aggregate surface course along Smokey Lake Road from approximately 9,770 feet northeast of US Forest Service Road 3110 easterly approximately 300 feet, including earthwork and riprap; and all together with necessary related work.

PART F – ER 36000; JOB #220623CON; 25A0310: Culvert replacement with arch pipe culvert and hot mix asphalt paving along Warner Mine Road from approximately 4,290 feet north of Industrial Park Road northerly approximately 300 feet, including surface removal, earthwork, subbase and aggregate base, paving, aggregate shoulders and riprap; 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.

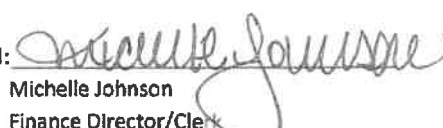
On a roll call vote- Ayes-Commissioners Battan, Germic, Cihak, Frailing, Schmidt

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 15th day of April 2025.

Signed:


Michelle Johnson

Finance Director/Clerk

