**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**April 9, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners for Presque Isle County was held at the Road Commission office at 657 South Bradley, Rogers City, Michigan. Chairman Robert Macomber called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Catalano,Norman Quaine, Robert Macomber

**Also Present**: Supt./Mgr David Kowalski, Clerk Anne Wirgau

**Visitors:** Clifford Tollini, Presque Isle County Commissioner

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Quaine) to approve minutes from March 19, 2025, regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Catalano) to approve April 9, 2025, accounts payable in the amount of $370,691.74

Ayes: Macomber, Catalano, Quaine

***Supt./Mgr Report:***

* Supt./Mgr updated the Board on status of the 451 project, preconstruction meeting was held March 24, 2025. The project will start in May and has a completion date of June 16, 2025.
* Belknap Township has asked for an updated cost to crush/shape/pave Golf Course Road from Section 12 Highway to the end of the asphalt. This is a share township road with Pulawski Twp. The Township cost share is $44,776.50 and the Road Commission share is $30,033.50. Estimate given to the Board.
* MDOT has scheduled M-65 from North Grand Lake Highway to US-23 for milling and filling (new asphalt) this year. The Road Commission will get all of the millings and will haul to the Miller Road pit for future use. Will put lead trailers and some tandem dump trucks on the haul project.
* Supt./Mgr updated the Board on the upcoming Ocqueoc Road crush & shape and the Ocqueoc Bridge repair project. The two projects were combined and federal aid reallocated with a cost savings of $132,000.00 for our local match. Our match of the road is $96,866.00 and $14,650.00 for the bridge repairs.
* A discussion was held regarding a drainage issue at 8894 Lake Nettie Road caused by a change in the road grade when Lake Nettie Road was paved last year. The Board was in favor of installing a catch basin drain if proposal was acceptable to the home owner. Home owner would be responsible for clearing the of grate on a regular basis.
* Discussion was held regarding Alpena Aggregate crushing at Aaron Hincka pit and the delays in getting the gravel crushed. Supt./Mgr was directed to send correspondence to Alpena Aggregate requesting the crushing be done by August 31, 2025 or rescind the agreement made three years ago.
* Discussion was held regarding Foremen Overtime worked during the ice storm. Moved to New Business for action.
* Bluffs Highway residents have asked for a estimate to pave the 2100’ of gravel instead of permazyne treatment. Supt./Mgr will provide to them soon. They currently have $12,000.00 towards the project.
* Spring weight restrictions have been lifted by our surrounding counties due to the influx of machinery working at tree removal. Discussion was held. Weight restrictions will be lifted in our county on Monday, April 14, 2025.
* As of April 9, 2025, the Road Commission has received or rented the following equipment to aid in Ice Storm 2025 clean up and recovery.

From MDOT at no charge:

12” wood chipper

2 each 20,000 kilowatt generators (Posen and Onaway)

Equipment purchased:

2 each grapple rotating attachments for the Cat 309 excavators - $15,300.00 each for total cost of $30,600.00

7 each chainsaws and operating supplies – approximately $7,500.00

Equipment rented:

15” Wood chipper - $6,900.00 per month

299 Skid Steer with Mulching Head - $10,200.00 per month

289 Skid Steer with grapple bucket - $3,550.00 per month

Total cost - $58,750.00

Monthly cost to rent after startup - $20,650.00

Personnel Added:

4 Part Time Employees to supervise the brush dump sites at the following locations:

1. Cheboygan Plains and Ocqueoc Road pit (5 Corners)
2. North Allis Hwy west of M-211 (4 Mile pit)
3. Rainy Lake Road between Freel and Wildcat (Wilder pit)
4. Miller Road between Loop Hwy and North Grand Lake Road (Miller pit)

If we decide to have the brush piles ground up by GFL the cost for a tub grinder with operator is $11,000.00 per week.

* MDOT is going to be helping with clean up on the county road system. As of today how many personnel is not known.
* MDOT has contracted with Ottawa County Road Commission to provide personnel and equipment to work on the state highway system in the county. The goal is to restore roads and right of ways to pre-storm condition. Presque Isle County Road Commission will be focusing on primary road clean up first then working on local roads followed lastly by primitive roads we maintain.
* The Spile Dam bridge rating has been reduced from 10 tons to 8 tons. New signs will be installed within 30 days.
* Discussion was held regarding authorization of longer work days during Ice Storm 2025 clean up and recovery. Moved to New Business for action.
* Supt./Mgr plans to send a thank you letter to several people and organizations who helped during the ice storm.

***Visitor:***

County Commissioner Tollini asked if we had generators at the three garages. Rogers City has a small generator with limited wattage. Posen and Onaway do not have generators of their own.

***Unfinished Business:***

None

***New Business:***

Finance Director Wirgau reviewed and discussed the 1st Quarter Financial report presented to the Board. It was noted cash flow was adequate, investments are doing well, MTF for 2024 was flat at .88% increase and the Administrative Overhead for 2024 was below the 10% desired limit at 8.8%. A draft copy of the Final 2024 Budget was reviewed and discussed. After audit is completed the final budget will be adopted.

A motion was made by Catalano (Quaine) to waive the Foremen Overtime Policy limit for overtime directly related to the Ice Storm 2025 response.

Ayes: Macomber, Catalano, Quaine

A motion was made to authorize the purchase of two (2) grapple rotating attachments to be used during clean up and recovery due to Ice Storm 2025 at a cost of $15,200.00 each, totaling $30,600.00.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Catalano (Quaine) to authorize overtime for crews to work 5-10 hour days during the clean up and recovery stage of Ice Storm 2025.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

A motion was made by Catalano (Quaine) to authorize three employees to attend motor grader training at Alcona CRC on May 12-13, 2025.

Ayes: Macomber, Quaine, Catalano

A motion was made by Quaine (Catalano) to authorize the implementation of Oxcart Permit Systems for permits issued by the Road Commission.

Ayes: All

Correspondence received from employee Joseph Laseck was reviewed and discussed. Board consensus was the request is an Employee Agreement item and should be negotiated by the Employee group when their agreement expires June 30, 2025.

Discussion was held regarding the possible purchase of a drone for use in assessing extent of beaver dam building and measuring gravel piles. Supt./Mgr will research models and speak to a current employee who is familiar with drone use.

Discussion was held about a request from a Posen employee to do something for PIE & G for their role in the Ice Storm 2025.

The permazyned section of 638 in Allis Township (2 Mile) was discussed. It may need additional compacting and blading.

The next scheduled regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission are set for Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Board the Chairman adjourned the meeting at

10:15 a.m.