**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**February 7, 2024**

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 Thomas Catalano called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

**Visitors:** Clifford Tollini-Presque Isle County Commissioner, Karen Fournier – Lakeshore Realty,

Roy Tulgetske, Rick Kurkechian – The Woods at Presque Isle

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve minutes from January 17, 2024 regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve the February 7, 2024 accounts payable in the amount of $177,992.23

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

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

* Supt./Mgr advised the Board that in fiscal year 2023 we spent $17,381.16 on controlling MDNR beavers.
* The Rogers City motor grader (#1402) is at Michigan Cat of Kalkaska to have the transmission rebuilt. Expected repair cost is approximately $35,000.00 and it may not be done until mid-March. If we were to rent one it would be $11,000.00 per month. Supt./Mgr does not believe we will have a need to rent one.
* All crews have been working on our gravel system trying to keep up with repairs as needed. Also, crews have been performing tree removal and brushing for upcoming projects. An additional shear head for the 309 Cat excavators would provide more efficiency and safety in operations to both Posen and Onaway.
* The Rogers City crew has finished up brushing on 451 between Wenzel and US-23, they have moved to the State trunkline starting at Petersville and working south to 441. Our local TSC Coordinator has contacted Supt./Mgr for a possible tree removal TWA project on US-23 between Miller Road and Old State Road. This job would pay for the shear head if purchased.
* Peterbuilt Trucks is working on a proposal to provide a tandem tractor under a municipal lease option. The tractor would be used with the lowboy, water tank and lead trailer and would include a buyout option at the end of the lease. Supt./Mgr will update the Board when further information is received. The leased tractor would replace #9923 (1992 Volvo Whtie GMC) and in the near future #1926 (1998 Western Star).
* Weight restriction went into effect this morning and there a couple of gravel roads bonded.
* The Road Commission is working with GFL to allow them to use trucks during weight restrictions on a specified route during the cleanup of a fuel oil spill in Grand Lake.
* Supt./Mgr updated the Board on the status of the employee off duty due to the substance abuse offense. The employee has completed the required program and tests and will be back to work tomorrow.
* Supt./Mgr advised the Board the boiler in the main garage is acting up and repair was here last week when there was no heat in the front office. A price for replacement is being obtained.

***Visitors:***

Karen Fournier, Lakeshore Realty, appeared before the Board to discuss access to property owned by Presque Isle Corporation from the end of Kaufman Blvd. There is approximately 200 feet of undeveloped road between the current road end and the property line of the proposed development property. Chairman Catalano indicated the Road Commission does not have a need to construct the road. If the road were to be built by a private contractor it would have to be to Road Commission standards, be surveyed and have engineered plans, all at the developer’s expense. If all the criteria were met the Road Commission would consider adopting it into our road system.

Ms. Fournier indicated the nineteen-acre parcel would be split into four parcels with a private road for access. The property owners would take care of the road themselves.

Chairman Catalano asked that the Road Commission be updated and involved in the process if plans to develop the undeveloped road are achieved. Karen thanked the Board and will keep the Road Commission apprised of new developments. Left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Roy Tulgestke appeared before the Board to discuss purchasing gravel from him if he buys a gravel crushing business. Roy purchased the 77-acre Fleis pit which is a good location for the Rogers City crew to haul from. Discussion was held regarding the quality and amount of gravel on the property. Mr. Tulgestke is seeking a commitment from the Road Commission to purchase 25,000 to 30,000 tons per year for 5 years. Supt./Mgr is in agreement and recommends the purchase if the price per ton is within reason. Mr. Tulgestke will be getting Supt./Mgr a price very soon as he needs a written purchase agreement to move forward with his business purchase.

Rick Kurkechian, representative from The Woods – Presque Isle, appeared before the Board to request that a private road within the development be accepted by Presque Isle County Road Commission into the county road system as a local road. Currently the road is gravel and was built by Curtis Excavating. Additionally, Mr. Kurkechian requested approval of the road name “Cedar Grove Court”. Lengthy discussion was held regarding acceptance of the road into our jurisdiction. The biggest issue is the width of the road at 50 feet instead of the Road Commission specification of 66 feet. If a waiver were to be issued for the 50-foot width an agreement for ditches would have to be established. Normally the Road Commission does not accept roads that are not paved and this is also an issue. Funding for the asphalt was discussed. Road Commission funds cannot be used to benefit a development business. Chairman Catalano would like to inspect the existing road prior to any action occurring. The road name acceptance was moved to New Business for action.

***Unfinished Business:***

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the cost to repair roads as the DTE Renewable Energy Little Trout solar farm project starts construction in Pulawski and Posen townships. Supt./Mgr has prepared a cost estimate to rebuild and repair the roads impacted by the solar farm construction. Total estimated cost would be $2,000,000 with the Road Commission share to be approximately half under the currently DTE proposal. If DTE does not fully fund reconstruction and repair of the roads it would cause a disproportionate amount of Road Commission funding to be used to the detriment of the entire county wide road system. In addition, the expenditures would not align with the Road Commission policy of spreading funding and projects throughout the county on an annual basis. Supt./Mgr was directed to forward the cost estimate along with a letter explaining our position to Mr. Pual Funk, DTE Renewable Energy representative.

***New Business:***

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Quaine and supported by Commissioner Macomber:

***Resolution 2024-01***

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Road Commissioners of Presque Isle County has received the following addition to the Act 51 Certified Mileage Map for 2023 and adds it to their jurisdiction:

Add

**ROAD NAME DISTANCE DESCRIPTION**

**Kauffman Blvd** 8700 feet From Boy’s Camp Road to Road end

Section 27 & 28

Presque Isle Twp, Township 34N – Range 8E

Delete

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Road Commissioners of Presque Isle County has received the following deletions to the Act 51 Certified Mileage Map for 2023 and deletes them to their jurisdiction:

**ROAD NAME DISTANCE DESCRIPTION**

**Hardies Road**  438.5 feet From 441 Hwy to road end

Section 2

Metz Twp, Township 33N– Range 5E

**Koscius’ko Road** 697 feet From Metz Hwy to Hardies

Section 2

Metz Twp, Township 33N – Range 5E

**Thompson Harbor Rd** 1 mile From river outlet to road end

Section 15

Krakow Township, Township 34N – Range E

Ayes: Catalano, Quaine, Macomber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to approve the name “Cedar Grove Court” for a private drive in The Woods – Presque Isle Development.

Ayes: All

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to authorize purchase of one (1) TMK 300 Tree Shear for up to $16,075.00 from McCarthy Farms LLC.

Ayes: Catalano, Quaine, Macomber

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to advertise for bids for asphalt for upcoming 2024 projects with bids to be opened at March 6, 2024 meeting.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Quaine

A request from the Presque Isle Museum to purchase a sign for them was denied.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding our 66’ right of way between Williams Road and the DNR railroad in Pulawski Township. Steve Reisner contacted the Supt./Mgr regarding the possible building of the unimproved road for land access for property owners. They currently get permission from the DNR to use the railroad grade but there are cumbersome restrictions on the use. Supt.Mgr was asked to find our what our options would be to allow Reisner use of this public right of way and whether or not the Road Commission could sell him the right of way.

The next scheduled regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission are set for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Highway Show, the second regular meeting will be March 27, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Catalano adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.