**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**May 5, 2021**

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:** Thomas Catalano,Ronald Bischer, Norman Quaine

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

**Visitors:** John Chappa – Presque Isle County Commissioner

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to approve minutes from April 21, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: All

***Approval of Agenda:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Bischer) to approve the agenda for May 5, 2021.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

Motion by Quaine (Bischer) to approve the May 5, 2021 accounts payable in the amount of $109,177.82

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

Bid Opening – 9:00 a.m. Dust and Ice Control Brine

A motion was made by Quaine (Bischer) to accept all bids and award the bid to Northern A-1 Services.

Ayes: Quaine, Bischer, Catalano

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

* COVID-19 update
  + Currently 1 employee on 14-day quarantine
* COVID HIP funds – we are anticipating receiving $170,068.00 that would be administered though the rural task force. I believe the Board wished to apply it towards the 451 Project in 2022.
* A letter has been sent to the County Board requesting Federal COVID relief funding – a copy was given to the Road Commission Board for review.
* Supt./Mgr, Asst Supt./Mgr, Al Pines and County Drain Commissioner Bob Macomber met on Baker Road regarding concerns Mr. Pines has with some drainage and with neighbor building a roadway within the Road Commission’s deeded right of way. Discussion was held.
* Supt./Mgr, Asst Supt./Mgr, Commissioner Quaine and Clerk Wirgau attended the Straits Area Council Meeting yesterday virtually. Several Legislative items are taking place with both the budget and supplemental budget. Nothing concrete yet as far as the money amount for us. Both CRASIF and MCRCSIP stated refunds could be coming. CRASIF checks will be issued at the end of this month. MCRCSIP refund will be late summer.
* Huron Pines is working on a listing of road stream crossings for possible funding. I believe all are within Ocqueoc Township and most with undersized culverts. They will be working with Dave if funding becomes available.
* A minor issue occurred with our MDOT maintenance contract last week. We were informed that MDOT contracted with a private contractor to perform maintenance on the north park, by Hammond Bay, without consulting us. According to the contract, MDOT & the Road Commission are supposed to work together to come to this decision. I contacted MDOT to voice my displeasure on how this was conducted. My concern was future maintenance activities being taken away from us without consulting us prior to discontinuing. An apology was received from the local TSC Manager for no one contacting us.
* Today is my last Board meeting as David Kowalski becomes Supt./Mgr effective today. It has been a pleasure working with you.

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

* On April 26th the Supt./Mgr, Asst Supt./Mgr and County Road Engineer along with others attended the Presque Isle Township special assessment meeting for the reconstruction of Lake Street and Fireside Drive. Mark Straley explained the special assessment process to the group and had prepared a preliminary estimate of $590,000 for the 1.3 mile project. I will keep the board updated when new information is received.
* Alpena Aggregate has started hauling 29A stone (chips) to the Millersburg Y for our sealcoating projects in the Ocqueoc/North Allis area. Goodrich will be hauling the remaining stone to various locations in the county.
* Emulsion oil (AE-90) has been ordered and the crews will start durapatching soon. The plan is to have the roads that will be seal coated this year durapatched prior to sealcoating.
* Asst. Supt./Mgr will be attending a Manager’s Retreat in Gaylord May 6-7, 2021. One of the questions I have for the others attending is whether or not there is a way to obtain financial support for the installation of windmills. Currently we have 57 applying for residency in Moltke Township.
* Update on new hires – Jeremy Belding started in Onaway on Monday, Joshua Dove declined the position for Rogers City, therefore it was offered and accepted by Neal Gould. Neal started Tuesday of this week. Shawn Roby has been hired for the Rogers City garage. Two part time summer employees have been hired for Rogers City garage and two for the Onaway garage. Posen is still looking for one. Discussion was held regarding the wage to pay these employees. Supt./Mgr and Asst Supt./Mgr are recommending $12.50 for summer employees without CDL and $15.00 for summer employees with CDL. Board consensus was to approve these rates.
* The preconstruction meeting for 451 project has been postponed from this past Monday to a future date due to a delay in MDOT receiving necessary documents from McArthur Construction. MDOT had not yet awarded the project to McArthur Construction. Later in the day Monday notification was received that McArthur had submitted necessary paperwork. Waiting for bid to be awarded.
* I am looking forward to the opportunity to work for the Board and will strive to do what is best for Presque Isle County Road Commission as the Supt./Mgr.

***Unfinished Business:***

Status of the employee negotiations and Employer/Employee proposals were discussed. No action was taken.

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Quaine) to appoint David A. Kowalski as Bridge Champion and be the contact person for the MDOT Bridge Bundling program.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Bischer

After a brief review of the employee contract, a motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to enter an employment contract with David A. Kowalski for the position of Supt./Mgr with starting salary be set at $55,000.00, effective immediately.

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

A motionwas madeby Quaine (Bischer) to remove Gerald Smigelski from all bank accounts and replace with David A. Kowalski.

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

A motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to allow expenses for Commissioners, Supt./Mgr and Clerk to attend a CRA sponsored work in Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 entitled “Unfunded Liabilities Workshop”.

Ayes: Catalano, Quaine, Bischer

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

***Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Presque Isle County Road***

***Security Benefit Retirement Plan 2021-08***

***WHEREAS,*** The Board of Road Commissioners for Presque Isle County would allow the Security Benefit Retirement Plan deferred compensation program to be made available to the employees of the Presque Isle Road Commission, including the Board of Road Commissioners.

***WHEREAS,*** the Security Benefit Retirement Plan would bring in a representative(s) to present seminars for interested employees that would consist of several sessions and have the employees from each garage alternate attendance either before or after working hours.

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Security Benefit Retirement Plan deferred compensation plan be made available, through a payroll deduction, to the employees of the Presque Isle Road Commission.

***IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Security Benefit Retirement Plan present deferred compensation program to any interested employee.

Ayes: Quaine, Bischer, Catalano

Nays: None

After review and discussion, a motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to accept the 2020 Financial Audit and authorize Chairman Catalano to sign the Act 51 Report attest sheet.

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

The next regular meetings of the Board of Road Commissioners will be Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

As there was no further business Chairman Catalano adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.