**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 16, 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:** County Commissioner Clifford Tollini

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve minutes from October 2, 2024 regular meeting.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve the October 16, 2024 accounts payable in the amount of $75,940.87

Ayes: Catalano, Quaine, Macomber

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

* County Road Association Self Insurance Fund (CRASIF) has recognized our commitment to safety and our low workmen’s compensation claims with an award. Once again, our modification factor is less than one and reduces our premiums. Supt./Mgr believes the employees are responsible for this and is in favor of awarding a Safety Award this fall.
* Nicholas Klave has accepted the open truck driver position at the Rogers City garage. He is in the process of pre-employment testing.
* Per attorneys Henn & Lesperance the Road Commission does not have a duty to maintain platted alleys and there is no liability for failure to maintain the alleys.
* A “Blind person in the area” sign has been ordered for Nagel Highway per the citizen request.
* Airport Highway (US-23 to Co Rd 451) has been completed except for paint striping. The asphalt total of 666 tons as follows: MDOT – 154 tons, Road Commission connecting fuel pumps to Airport Highway – 30 tons and Rogers Township project share – 482 tons (65% to be paid by Township, 35% to be paid by the Road Commission).
* Supt./Mgr and Foremen attended the SAMS conference Oct 2-4, 2024 and found it to be very informative. A discussion was held regarding Class 3 safety vests and the need to use them on 65 mph road projects.
* A letter was received from UAW-FCA-Ford-General Motors Legal Services regarding the Oscar Robinson Road encroachment issue. Supt./Mgr forwarded all pertinent information to Henn & Lesperance.
* Onaway and Posen have started the construction of their cold storage buildings.
* Supt./Mgr will be attending the November Bearinger Township Board Meeting to discuss a possible private donation to permazyne the gravel portion of Bluffs Highway.
* The seasonal position in Onaway has been offered to Dawson Badgero. He will be stopping in to start the necessary paperwork and pre-employment testing.
* DTE Little Trout Solar project has paid an invoice in the amount of $10,503.06 for maintenance done through September 16, 2024.
* Supt./Mgr and County Road Engineer Mark Straley attended the Presque Isle Township meeting regarding a special assessment district for Lake Street and Fireside Highway on October 14, 2024. Discussion was held.
* A request was received by the Supt./Mgr to close the office at 12:00 pm on November 15, 2024. Discussion was held. Board consensus was to allow it if emergency contact personnel were available if needed and notice was posted.
* Supt./Mgr received a telephone call from Assistant Prosecutor Blaise Ryan regarding the ongoing dispute over the right of way for Baker Road. There may be a need for the Supt./Mgr to depose or appear in court to prove Presque Isle County Road Commission has jurisdiction of the road.

***Visitors:***

County Commissioner Tollini did not have any official business for the Board but did provide several comments during the meeting.

***Unfinished Business:***

Correspondence from Attorney Henn & Lesperance was read and discussed regarding the maintenance of platted alleys.

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to grant a 2024 Safety Award of up to $100 per employee to recognize employee participation in safety programs which has saved the Road Commission premium expense for workmen’s compensation insurance.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to authorize expenses for Commissioners, Supt./Mgr and Clerk to attend the Straits Area Council meeting on November 5, 2024 at Mackinac City.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to authorize expenses for the Clerk and Payroll Clerk to attend the quarterly HR/Finance Association meeting on October 29, 2024 at Wexford County Road Commission.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

Supt./Mgr presented on the topic of 23A Road gravel used on our road system. Included in the presentation were the specifications per the Standard Specification for Construction manual, Section 902.05 – Dense Graded Aggregates for Base Course, Surface Course, Shoulder, Approaches and Patching; a Mechanical Analysis Report; photos of gravel shoulders on both county and state roads; and samples of 23A from four different locations in our county.

Discussion was held regarding materials used, how the gravel is tested, the frequency of testing during the crushing process and how variances in color and material are immaterial if the gravel passes the mechanical analysis report.

Supt./Mgr Kowalski concluded his presentation by stating the stone crushing process to produce road gravel is a documented and scientific approach which provides standardized road gravel throughout the county road system.

Chairman Catalano thanked Supt./Mgr for the good information and said he would like to see a continuation of testing and monitoring as needed.

The next scheduled regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission are set for Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding meeting dates in December as possibly December 4, 2024 and December 30, 2024.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Catalano adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.