**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 6, 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 David Kowalski, Clerk Anne Wirgau

**Visitors:** John Chappa – Presque Isle County Commissioner, Gerald Wenzel

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to approve minutes from September 15, 2021 regular meeting.

Ayes: All

***Approval of Agenda:***

A motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to approve the agenda for October 6, 2021.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

Motion by Quaine (Bischer) to approve the October 6, 2021 accounts payable in the amount of $442,198.56

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

***Visitor:***

Gerald Wenzel, property owner on Nagel Highway, appeared before the Board to request two items regarding the recent Nagel Highway project and his property. Mr. Wenzel also had several other items to discuss.

The first item requested was the paving of a four foot wide shoulder from the end of the intersection shoulder continuing up the hill for approximately fifty feet. Mr. Wenzel is concerned that due to the way the intersection was reconstructed a turn onto Nagel with a trailer would cause the trailer to drop off the pavement onto the shoulder. Chairman Catalano stated the corner was built to MDOT specifications and there is nothing wrong with the hard packed gravel shoulder in the area in question. Commissioner Bischer stated he is not in favor of the Road Commission paying for any further shoulder paving and if Mr. Wenzel wants it paved he will have to pay for it. Mr. Wenzel said Garrett Dawe, Manager of the MDOT Alpena Transportation Center, told him it should be paved. Supt./Manager Kowalski replied that Mr. Dawe did not indicate it should be paved when he spoke with him. Chairman Catalano denied the request for further paving and stated nothing is going to be changed.

In addition, Mr. Wenzel had concerns about the road height, the finishing of the driveways, a log laying in the right of way and asked why the hill was not reduced. Mr. Wenzel also provided the Board with a petition signed by Nagel Hwy property owners. Lengthy discussion was held with it being noted that the project was crush & shape with paving, not a complete reconstruction of the road. Commissioner Quaine stated to correct the elevation it would require approximately $50,000 for design of engineered plans and the cost of the project would be greatly increased.

The second item requested by Mr. Wenzel was a request to clean out a drainage ditch near his property built when Willard Schaedig was Supt./Manager. Mr. Wenzel states the ditch has become overgrown with brush and dead trees which is causing the water flow to be inhibited. It then floods the back of his property. Discussion was held about the water flow direction and the location of the ditch. Clerk Wirgau will locate documents pertaining to the project and present at the next board meeting for further discussion.

Chairman Catalano thanked Mr. Wenzel for bringing his concerns to the Board. Mr. Wenzel left the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

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

* Supt./Mgr along with Commissioner Quaine and Clerk Wirgau attended the Northern Association of Road Commissions Annual Conference. Very good information was presented including the MDOT Maintenance Contract and MIOSHA visits and violations. Senator Wayne Schmidt and Representative Jack O’Malley discussed bridge bundling and Forest Roads funding. There is no plan to increase Forest Road funding at this time. Discussion was held regarding electric vehicles and ways to charge for their road use.
* The Presque Isle County Road Commission MDOT Maintenance contract has been completed with minor changes in prices on materials. The contract covers a period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2026.
* Alpena Aggregate has provided pricing for crushing of gravel at the Miller Road pit as follows:

30,000 tons $3.25 ton

40,000 tons $3.10 ton

50,000 tons $2.95 ton

Discussion was held and the item moved to New Business on the agenda.

* Supt./Mgr attended a Teams meeting with R.S. Scott and MDOT regarding an explanation of our safety grant being denied. We were so close the state suggests we apply again. If there is money left over it may be approved this year yet. Discussion was held regarding the part of the curve which is not sloped correctly.
* On September 21, 2021 Unit # 0103 driven by Richard Lenard was performing shoulder maintenance on US-23 south of M-65 when the truck was struck by an SUV traveling south. Significant damage occurred to our truck and the SUV was a total loss. Rich has minor injuries. Damage to the truck is approximately $15,000.00
* Krakow Township has requested a speed study for Grand Pointe Road. Supt./Mgr contacted the MSP and is waiting to hear from them.
* Work has been completed at Kelsey Lake. An email from Mrs. Pierce was given to the board, she is happy with the work performed to abate the soil erosion.
* PICRC was recognized for having one of the lowest employee injury rates among Road Commissions in the state this past year. The award was given by our workmen’s compensation pool – County Road Association Self Insurance Fund (CRASIF).
* Grand Lake Blvd is in desperate need of tree and brush removal to prevent damage to our equipment during winter operations. Supt./Mgr drafted an informational letter to send to the property owners and Presque Isle Township provided mailing labels and postage. Supt./Mgr would like to rent a man lift for this project for safety and efficiency reasons. The rental fee would be $2,200.00 for one month and $3,740.00 for two months including delivery and return costs. We have three employees trained to use man lifts and the lift could be used to work on the Onaway lean to addition as well.
* The equipment auction went very well and netted $10,300.00
* The Michigan Public Service Commission has issued a violation to the Road Commission for failure to get a Miss DIG. Crews were pulling country curb using grader, loader and a truck. No excavating was occurring and only the road surface was been worked on. Supt./Mgr sent a letter to MPSC explaining the maintenance operation and asking to have the probable violation removed from our records. A copy of the letter was given to the Board.

***Unfinished Business:***

Supt./Mgr provided an update on the Foremen pickups. Berger Chevrolet through the Michigan MiDeal contract can order three extended cab trucks at a cost of $30,497.00 each. Supt./Mgr asked if 2WD were available was told no, as well as crew cab or SUV not available either.

A motion was made by Quaine (Bischer) to purchase three (3) pickups for the Foremen through the Michigan MiDeal discounted pricing at Berger Chevrolet for a price of $30,497.00 each.

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

Commissioner Quaine inspected areas of Co Rd 451from Hawks Hwy back to Rogers City. He believes the roadway from where we ended in 2020 (south of TNT Bar) to Rogers City is in the worst condition. Discussion was held regarding the 5 Year Plan for reconstruction and the possibility of re-arranging projects to schedule this section prior to doing Co Rd 451 (Hawks Hwy to Noffze).

A motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to hire R.S. Scott to provide the engineering design for Co Rd 451 from where the 2020 reconstruction ended (Talaska property) to ¼ mile north of Wenzel Hwy on Co Rd 451, a distance of 1 ½ miles.

Ayes: Quaine, Bischer, Catalano

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Bischer (Quaine) to authorize expenses for Clerk and Payroll Clerk to attend the quarterly Finance and human Resource Association of Northern Michigan meeting in Cadillac on October 26, 2021.

Ayes: Bischer, Catalano, Quaine

After brief discussion a motion was made by Quaine (Bischer) to authorize Tulgestka Forest Products to cross the Miller Road Pit to access a wood sale.

Ayes: All

Clerk Wirgau presented the Board with 3rd Quarter Financial Reports including Cash position, Trial Balance, Balance Sheet, Investment Report, MTF Comparison, Ratio Analysis and Capital Outlay expenditures for 2021 through September 30, 2021. Clerk Wirgau noted there were no exceptional items and also presented proposed Budget amendments. The revenue budget increased by $260,572.00 and the expenditure budget increased by 296,998.00 for a net expenditure increase of $36,426.00.

A motion was made by Quaine (Bischer) to amend the 2021 Budget as presented. (See attached)

Ayes: Catalano, Bischer, Quaine

The next regular meetings of the Board of Road Commissioners will be Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

As there was no further business Chairman Catalano adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

