**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**August 16, 2023**

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 Norman Quaine 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, Norman and Janet Baker, Laura Haydamacker, Mary Cummings, Sue Wilbur

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to approve minutes from August 2, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to approve the August 16, 2023 accounts payable in the amount of $232,033.82

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

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

• Duane Budnik has accepted the truck driver position for the Posen garage, possible start date of August 21, 2023. Zack Idalski has expressed interest and has started operating the motor grader. Fill in Foreman for Posen will now be Nick Idalski.

• Supt./Mgr asked if the option to hire an additional employee for Posen this fall is still an option. Discussion was held and permission to hire was granted.

• At this time, we do not have a spare underbody scraper and we always have had one available in the past.

Prices were obtained as follows:

Monroe $16,558.00

Heights Machinery $15,615.08

Price difference of $943.08. The blades on the Heights scraper are an improved version of the Monroe, including heavier cylinder bosses and a better angle for swinging the blade under freezing conditions. They are also equipped with shear pins which Monroe does not have. Supt./Mgr is recommending purchase of two; one for the new truck being built and one for truck #1414. The Monroe scraper off #1414 could be used for a spare. Item moved to New Business for action.

• Supt./Mgr contacted the property owner next to our property at Miller Road. He was thankful for the gravel for his troubles.

• Supt./Mgr met with Aaron Hincka regarding the crushing of gravel at Schaut’s hill pit. Supt./Mg has document ready for signature, stating the royalty amount and allowing us to store the crushed gravel up to five years if necessary.

• Update on Lost Lake Road relocation – Mr. Berg cannot get an engineering firm until 2024, so we are at least one more year out on the project.

• The rumble strips have been installed by PK Contracting at the following intersections: 634/Leer, Metz Hwy/Leer, and east side of Long Lake/M-65.

• Gravel and perma-zyme has been installed on the section of Polaski Road. It appears to be getting quite hard.

• The M-33 turn lane MDOT TWA project is almost complete. The paving is done and crew is working on topsoil, seed, and mulching.

• The next two items are a result of citizen concerns in Presque Isle Township. Board was given an informational letter which Supt./Mgr is asking Presque Isle Township to include in their fall newsletter.

• R.S. Scott & Associates is going to write a safety grant for the Road Commission to apply for crosswalk improvements. The crosswalks will include lighted pedestals which allow the motorist to be aware of a pedestrian crossing the road. The range light crosswalk and a newly installed crosswalk between the Portage store and the Harbor are the two locations.

• Presque Isle Harbor Association is a subdivision and therefore falls under subdivision speed limits. Supt./Mgr has contacted the Michigan State Police to make sure we have the authority to post such speed limit signs on the main roads in the subdivision. Reason for asking is because signs have never been posted before.

• The 451 pre-construction meeting was held and went very well. September 7, 2023 is a tentative start date for the projects.

• Supt./Mgr is working on the preparation of the center line and edge line painting order. Approximately twenty miles will be done this year.

• A used forklift has been located for the Posen garage at a cost of $5,000.00.

• Unit # 2025 (pickup truck) has a broken connecting rod with 45,000 miles. A replacement engine has been located with 47,000 miles for $3,800.00. The mechanics will install the replacement engine in house.

• Presque Isle Township 638 Project # JN 218938: 1.4 miles, Grand Lake Road to PI Twp line

Cost for this crush and shape with HMA is $729,303.00 with a Road Commission cost share of approximately $283,000.00. Supt./Mgr requested R.S. Scott & Associates to refigure our cost with our crews doing a larger percentage of work. Supt./Mgr suggested the following:

Berm grading savings $ 6,080.00

Supply and install aggregate prior to crushing savings $105,960.00

Install shoulder gravel savings $ 26,000.00

Slope restoration savings $ 5,000.00

Total savings $143,040.00

Cost for the project with these savings would be $586,263.00.

$586,263.00

- 366,126.00 STP funding through Rural Task Force (Federal aid)

- 95,000.00 Presque Isle Township contribution

$125,137.00 Road Commission share

• Presque Isle County Airport has asked if the Road Commission would be interested in taking over snow removal and lawn mowing on the airport grounds. Approximately 75 acres to mow and 13 miles of 10-foot lanes to plow. Supt./Mgr has a few concerns:

* Lack of man power and time it would take to clear the area of snow. Supt./Mgr prefers to have trucks on roadway removing snow rather than on the runways.
* Mowing the 75 acres would require extra man and finding time to do it.
* Both items would take work away from a private contractor.

• Two miles of Karsten Road from M-68 to Heythaler and one mile of Wirgau Road are scheduled to have liquid calcium chloride installed next week. This will help with the fall traffic that travel Karsten Road to Knaebe’s Apple Farm.

• Supt./Mgr presented the Board with a letter drafted to Mr. Davies regarding the removal of objects from the right of way at the end of Hill St. We will need to find the survey stakes prior to brushing.

• Brine costs through August 1, 2023 are $235,126.70. This does not include the cost of the liquid calcium chloride.

• Bismarck Township has agreed to move forward with the paving of Lake Nettie Road (1.3 miles) with a two-inch overlay. Our responsibilities for this project will include removing all the sealcoat and installing gravel to make a good grade to pave on. Bismarck Township is requesting payments over five years, $21,140.00 per year starting in 2023 for a total of $105,703.00. The Road Commission cost share will be $56,917.00. Supt./Mgr has requested R.S. Scott & Associates to double check the estimate numbers in case costs have changed. Supt./Mgr will then prepare Township Agreement for Bismarck to sign.

***Visitors:***

Norman Baker, resident of Lost Lake Road, thanked the Board for the application of dust control brine on Lost Lake Road. He also requested patching be done on the apron of Lost Lake at 638 intersection. There are several large potholes which could cause damage to vehicle wheels.

Laura Haydamacker, also a resident of Lost Lake Road, requested an update on the possible relocation of Lost Lake Road on the Alan Berg property. Supt./Mgr informed her of the latest status which is Presque Isle County Road Commission is waiting for engineered plans from Mr. Berg. Mr. Berg stated he cannot get an engineering firm until 2024, therefore any action would not be until next year. Additionally, lengthy discussion was held regarding extended right of way at the Selke and Haydamacker properties, parking on the right of way concerns, testing of subbase of any new road construction, decommissioning of old roadbed, use of a third-party engineering firm to inspect any new roadway and the need for another Public Hearing should the project proceed.

Commissioners once again reiterated that all costs are being paid by Mr. Berg.

Ms. Haydamacker thanked the Board for their time and stated her main concern is safety for all motorists on Lost Lake Road.

Mary Cummings, property owner at the dead end of 441 in Metz Township, appeared before the Board to notify the Board of tree cutting and digging occurring within the road by user right of way and the deeded right of way area. Additionally, seventy-two posts were installed along the user road right of way and the truck turn around area has been disturbed.

Ms. Cummings stated she is in the process of hiring an attorney to stop the destruction of the property.

Lengthy discussion was held. The Commissioners will be inspecting the area in question soon.

Visitors left the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

County Commissioner Tollini said the liquid calcium chloride application on 638 Highway is holding up well.

***Unfinished Business:***

None

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to authorize purchase of two (2) underbody scraper from Heights Machinery Inc for $15,615.08 each for a total of $31,230.16.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to authorize Supt./Mgr to have the 638 project estimate updated and to prepare a Township Agreement with Presque Isle Township for their $95,000.00 contribution toward the Federal Aid project. Road Commission cost share will be $125,137.00.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

A discussion was held regarding primary roads within the county that could be put on an illustrative list for paving or other necessary maintenance. Supt./Mgr stated there are several gravel roads that would only need minimal work before paving. Supt./Mgr will bring the five year plan to the next board meeting for further discussion.

Upcoming conferences include the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions at Manistee September 13-15, 2023 and the Commissioners Seminar at Mt. Pleasant October 22-23, 2023.

The next regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission will be, Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Quaine adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.