**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**December 30, 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:** Thomas Catalano,Norman Quaine, Robert Macomber

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

**Visitors:** County Commissioner Clifford Tollini, County Commissioner John Chappa, Robert Crook

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve minutes from December 4, 2024 regular meeting.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve the December 30, 2024 accounts payable in the amount of $278,869.56

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

Chairman closed regular meeting and opened Public Hearing at 9:03 a.m.

Chairman returned to regular meeting at 9:28 a.m.

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

* Krakow Township would like to sealcoat and fog McCreery Highway (from Highland Pines to Black Bass Bay Road), a local road. The total estimate cost is $21,384.00 with Township cost share of $13,899.00 and Road Commission cost share of $7,484.00. Item moved to New Business for action.
* Townhall Road from 489 to Cheboygan County line might be a good road to apply Permazyne on. Discussion was held about the primary road status, the length of 3.2 miles and estimated cost of $68,000.00. Item tabled for future meeting.
* Update on Bluffs Highway permazyne project. The project is tentatively moving forward with residents paying the cost share of $13,609.00. The Road Commission cost will be $7,328.00. One thousand yards of gravel will be installed and permazyne applied. A contract should be coming soon.
* Josh Leisen, Huron Pines representative, provided an update on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Grand for the culvert replacement on Canada Creek Highway over Canada Creek. If awarded this would be a 2025 project for the road Commission to replace an outdated culvert. Huron Pines purchases the culvert and materials, and the Road Commission provide labor and equipment.
* Supt./Mgr wrote and delivered a letter to Dave Campo, Sno-Trails representative, regarding the use of roads for designated snowmobile trails. Copy given to the Board.
* Beaver expenses for 2024 equaled $33,252.88.
* Nicholas Idalski will be replacing retiring Rogers City Foreman Keith Konieczny beginning February 8, 2025. Discussion on starting wage. Board was in favor of a base salary of $58,000.00 and an increase of $1,900.00 after 90 days.
* Discussion of utility contractor open cutting an asphalt road to retrieve a lost drill under the road of E. Grand Lake near the Kauffman corner. The Board is not in favor of allowing an open cut on pavement that is in good shape. Discussion was held regarding the number of bores needed to install the fiber optic line in the area.
* Discussion of replacement of Semi Tractor #9923 with new semi to pull trailers. Quotes from Wester Star, Peterbilt and Kenworth range between $172,000.00 to $190,000.00. Discussion about disposing one lowboy trailer and Volvo semi (#9923) – open or sealed bid? Item moved to New Business for action.
* Updated Board on Michigan minimum wage increase. For information only.
* Pulawski Township is asking for an estimate to repair the hill at M-65 and Lake Augusta Highway and pave one mile between Hincka Road and M-65. Total cost for the project would be $249,386.00 with Pulawski Township cost share of $162,100.00 and Road Commission cost share of $87,285.00. the project is dependent on agreement from McFalda property owner to move the driveway entrance. Supt./Mgr would like engineering from R.S. Scott due to drainage issues and elevation for the approach to M-65. Supt./Mgr was advised to check with MCRCSIP legal counsel to see if the Road Commission had standing to make the property owner move the driveway.
* Dean Seather, Westwood Global Energy representative, contacted Supt./Mgr to advise they are sub-contracting to Lotus Energy. Westwood Global Energy will be installing the wind farm in Moltke including four-inch underground cables to connect to the transmission stations. Currently our right of way permit does not allow for cable that size to be in our right of way. They have also requested a road use agreement. An informal meeting will be scheduled at a future date.
* Dennis Ciarkowski removed his equipment from the shoulder of Hincka Road.
* Supt./Mgr met with Presque Isle Township and their lawyer regarding the Lake Street special assessment. An updated estimate has been done adding the cost to repair an erosion issue on the hill on Garner Street. (copy given to the Board) The Road Commission cost share would now be $64,110.00.
* the hill on Garner Street. (copy given to Board) The Road Commission cost share would now be $64,110.00.
* Supt./Mgr attended the County Commissioners meeting on December 27, 2024 and thanked the Commissioners for their input and knowledge towards road issues.

***Visitors:***

County Commissioner Chappa discussed the M-68/US-23 intersection and installation of a roundabout. Discussion was held regarding the design of the intersection and options to reduce the traffic and crashes at the intersection. As part of the MDOT State Trunk Line system local agencies do not have any jurisdiction and can only offer input to MDOT.

***Unfinished Business:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to enter employment contracts with Supt./Mgr David A. Kowalski and Finance Director Anne M. Wirgau for a four-year period ending December 21, 2028.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to adopt the proposed 2025 Financial Budget as presented at the Public Hearing. (See attached)

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to enter an agreement with Krakow Township to seal coat and fog McCreery Highway from Highland Pines to Black Bass Bay Road for a total estimated cost of $21,384.00 with Township cost share to be $13,899.00 and Road Commission cost share of $7,484.00.

Ayes: Catalano, Quaine, Macomber

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to authorize Supt./Mgr to contact Sourcewell to see if a semi-truck with our specifications is available and if not Supt./Mgr is authorized to solicit bids to be opened February 5, 2025.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to sell Unit #9923 (Volvo Semi Tractor) and Trail King lowboy trailer (Unit #8910) via public sealed bid offering with bids to be opened on January 22, 205 at 9:00 a.m.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

The next scheduled regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission are set for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Board Chairman Catalano adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.



