**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**December 6, 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, Robert Macomber, Thomas Catalano

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

**Visitors:** Clifford Tollini – Presque Isle County Commissioner, Norman Baker – Lost Lake Road resident

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to approve minutes from November 22, 2023 regular meeting with a correction to the motion regarding 2023 Safety Allowance to include “to increase 2023 Safety Allowance to $400.00 for this year for full time and $200.00 for this year for part time employees”

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to approve the December 6, 2023 accounts payable in the amount of $354,215.85

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

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

• Supt./Mgr placed the order for the tag trailer from Michigan Cat. It is ready to be picked up, and will be sending a driver to get it.

• Unfortunately, our Gradall is a less than desirable piece of machinery. Supt./Mgr recommends we put it out front and take sealed bids on it for a month.

• The crews have started brushing on 451 between Wenzel Hwy and US 23. Carmeuse has suggested that we cut behind their fence and move it out of the right of way. This will also improve the visibility from Airport Hwy intersection looking south.

• Supt./Mgr advised Carmeuse to abandon Quarry View Road they will have to petition 53rd Circuit Court as Quarry View is part of the Supervisor’s Plat of Petersville and only circuit court can abandon it.

• After reviewing the price of the Rogers City storage building we are constructing and talking with the Posen and Onaway Foremen it may be a good opportunity to put up storage at Posen and Onaway facilities. Both foremen are in favor and have the personnel to build these. Rogers City cold storage building cost was $10,545.25 for the 28 feet by 48-foot structure.

• Onaway has a college student applying for part time work, less than 40 hours per week when they are not in school. The Onaway Foremen states there is enough work for the position. Pay would be $16.00 per hour and they are of 18 years old.

• Discussion was held regarding the 2023 Safety Allowance for full time and part time employees.

• Supt./Mgr has been signing several documents in the process of closing out the 451 job 205333A.

• Supt./Mgr attended the Michigan Township Association (MTA) meeting last evening where projects accomplished in 2023 were discussed and the proposed projects for 2024 were reviewed.

• On Friday the Supt./Mgr will be attending a community meeting hosted by the Grand Lake Men’s Club to discuss work in that section of the county. Additionally, Commissioner Macomber will be in attendance to field Lake Esau questions.

***Visitors:***

Norman Baker, resident of Lost Lake Road, appeared before the Board to request that the 25 MPH signs previously posted on Lost Lake Road be put back up. He stated Presque Isle County Sheriff’s deputies said the signs had been there previously and he wondered why they were removed. A discussion was held regarding who has authority to set speed limits and the history of road work on Lost Lake Road.

Commissioners were in favor of revisiting the issue if Mr. Baker could obtain documentation noting the signs were in place previously.

Mr. Baker also discussed the issue of his driveway being a “blind” driveway due to the hill in the road at his driveway location. Discussion was held with it being noted in the past driveway permits were not always obtained and line of site vision was not a priority with lake lots. There are many driveways with the same issue within the County.

Mr. Baker thanked the Board for addressing his concerns.

***Unfinished Business:***

Commissioner Macomber reported on the CRA workshop he attended yesterday. A topic which will impact the Road Commission is the implementation of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) program. The $42 billion-dollar federal program is part of the 2021 Infrastructure and Jobs Act and is designed to provide increased access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet throughout the country. Presque Isle County qualifies as an “underserved” area and we will be seeing internet service providers doing more work in the road system right of way. The importance of ensuring all permit requirements are satisfied along with monitoring of roadbed work was stressed.

***New Business:***

Supt./Mgr discussed the updated quote for a CAT 309 excavator for Onaway. The model 309 costs approximately $6,000.00 more than the model 308 and would have the capability to run a mulch head.

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to authorize the purchase of a Michigan CAT Model 309 excavator for $161,774.35.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to authorize the hiring of a part time employee for the Onaway garage at a rate of $16.00 per hour.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

The next regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission will be on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, January 4, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. A re-organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 2024 prior to the regular meeting.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Quaine adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.