**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**May 3, 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:** Cliff Tollini – Presque Isle County Commissioner, Duane Snow, Nancy Snow, Alan Pines

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Catalano and supported by Macomber to approve minutes from April 19, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Catalano and supported by Macomber to approve the May 3, 2023 accounts payable in the amount of $98,925.53.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

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

* Supt./Mgr Kowalski contacted Gerald and Betty Ruczynski, owners of Ike’s Sunny Shore Subdivision Lot #46, Health Department representative and Lakeshore Realty regarding the drainage ditch on the property. Supt./Mgr has been monitoring the spring run off in the area and does not believe there will be any issue if the ditch is filled. The Health Department was in favor of the proposed solution to install a couple of loads of larger “B” stone in the ditch prior to filling the remainder with embankment. This will allow installation of a septic field on the property which would meet Health Department codes. Mr. & Mrs. Ruczynski signed an estimate to have the Road Commission do the “B” stone and agreed to pay for the stone installation.
* Gravel roads are improving and all three garages have been doing a good amount of blading, the amount of rain recently has caused some problems.
* The Rogers City Sand Shed demolition is nearly complete and footings will be poured soon.
* The used 2012 International has been purchased and the mechanics are repairing a few minor things.
* The MDOT TWA for US-23 between Warren Creek and Rayburn is in progress as weather allows. $150,000.00 has been budgeted for the project.
* Onaway crew is busy with the high number of gravel roads in their area. Supt./Mgr and Onaway Foreman did a ride around to inspect some projects that need to be addressed. Twin School and Palmer intersection is one of the projects.
* The Rogers City crew is performing ditching and tree removal on the US-23 Business route in addition to working on the sand shed.
* The Posen crew is ditching Grand Point Road and Outer Drive where necessary prior to the seal coat/fog project scheduled for this summer.
* Property owners in Brooks Long Lake Subdivision are asking permission to remove dead trees and debris from the center circle park. Discussion was held. Supt./Mgr will contact them advising that no official permission will be granted due to liability concerns.
* A notice letter was sent to residents of Hill Street informing them of an upcoming ditching project scheduled for this summer.
* Jacob Kuznicki has accepted the Rogers City Truck Driver position and is currently doing the pre-employment physical and screening process.
* Supt./Mgr will be contact County Road Engineer Straley in regards to the 638 (Grand Lake Rd to Twp line) crush/shape/pave project. An invitation to bid will be sent to Team Elmer’s, Bolen Asphalt and MacArthur Construction for the crushing and paving. Our crew will do the gravel installation and shaping. Additionally, a bid for the Petersville Road crush & shape will be requested.
* The three (3) 451 projects have been cleared and are waiting for funding obligation.
* Eric Precord, MDOT Alpena TSC Maintenance Coordinator, did a ride around with the three Foremen and will have additional TWA work for our crews this summer.

***Unfinished Business:***

Duane Snow, Nancy Snow and Alan Pines appeared before the Board to discuss the deeded right of way on Baker Road beyond the improved portion of the road. Mr. Pines had previously requested that obstructions on the right of way be removed so he could use the road to access the southern part of his property adjoining the right of way.

Chairman Quaine stated any obstructions need to be removed from the right of way and no one can impede, obstruct or prevent the public from accessing a public road right of way.

Commissioner Catalano noted the unnatural berm created on the right of way is preventing use of the right of way by the public. Commissioner Catalano explained that the Road Commission cannot improve the ROW without building the road to current road building standards which would be very expensive and not a good use of taxpayer money. Additionally, neither property owner would be happy with extra vehicular traffic using the road.

Mr. Snow spoke to how and why the berm was created and it was permitted years ago when it was done. Mr. Pines stated the berm is too steep for walking on or driving a 4-wheeler over. Discussion was held on options to reduce the grade of the berm. The culvert in the berm would have to be extended and fill placed to flatten out the slope. The Road Commission would be in favor of issuing a permit to work within the right of way to do so.

Mr. Snow spoke at length about the history of the water in the area of both properties. Mr. Snow stated he would remove the rocks and equipment on the right of way. Mr. Snow requested a third party to oversee the berm work. Commissioner Catalano reiterated that the Road Commission does not desire to expend funds on this issue and involve personnel in the matter. Commissioner Catalano indicated he would personally be willing to inspect the area in question and provide suggestions.

Mr. Pines asked for a timeline for removal of barriers. Mr. Snow stated the end of July, early August would allow enough time for the area to dry out so machinery, fence stakes and other items could be moved off the right of way. Mr. Snow stated he would be stringing a line on his property as he has done in the past during deer season. Again, the Board noted it should be off the 66’ right of way and entirely on his own property.

Discussion was held regarding the installation of a sign on Baker Road notifying traffic that the improved road ends in a specified number of feet. There was mutual agreement that this type of sign would help deter traffic from traveling on the unimproved portion of the road right of way. Supt./Mgr Kowalski will measure the distance to the berm and obtain the necessary signage.

The visitors thanked the Board for their attention to this matter and left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2024 Western Star 47X from Stoops Western Star, Traverse City, in the amount of $168,500.00. Delivery will be in 2024 and Stoops has extended the 2022 price for this purchase.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to authorize a wage of $16.00 per hour for seasonal employees and $19.50 per hour for a seasonal employee with CDL-A license.

Ayes: Macomber, Catalano, Quaine

The next regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission will be, Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Quaine adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.