**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**November 22, 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, Dave Campo and Rick Adias, Presque Isle Sno-Trails Club

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to approve minutes from November 1, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to approve the November 22, 2023 accounts payable in the amount of $417,966.76

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

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

• FOIA update, full payment for the request has been received and the MCRCSIP attorney, Bill Henn, has forwarded the document to requester, Hirzel Law Firm.

• The upcoming 638 Highway (Grand Lake Road to Township line) was in the November letting and Bolen Construction was awarded the contract.

• The dually pickup we were looking at was not worth purchasing. Another option has been located in Alpena, a 2004 Ford Dually 1 ton diesel 4 x4 with plow is available for $16,500.00. Discussion was held and the item moved to New Business.

• A letter was sent to Clarence Zwolinski regarding his fence in the road right of way. A removal date of May 6, 2024 was given and if not removed by the Road Commission will remove it and bill him for the task.

• A request has been received from Carmeuse to abandon Quarry View Road. The road is a part of the Supervisor’s plat of Petersville and would require circuit court action to abandon. Clerk Wirgau researched the history of the prior abandonment of streets in the plat and was unable to locate any documentation related to Quarry View Road being abandoned. Supt./Mgr Kowalski will advise Carmeuse they need to file the petition to abandon in 53rd Circuit Court.

• Supt./Mgr presented a list of road work for the 2024 calendar year. Discussion was held.

• The upcoming 451 project (Wenzel Highway to US-23, 2 miles) has a road commission cost share in the amount of $243,345.00. An additional $97,000.00 is available in Federal funding and will reduce our cost share to $146,045.00.

• Huron Pines has approached the Road Commission to enter an agreement to replace a culvert on Canada Creek Highway in 2025. The project would require an approximate $25,000.00 in kind labor and equipment from the Road Commission. Item moved to New Business.

• Supt./Mgr spoke with Gary Chapman, Bit-Mat Materials, and he is going to try to keep prices the same for 2024.

* Michigan CAT appraisal on the Gradall has been completed. Offer for trade in was $3,000.00 with the maximum value of $5,000.00. It may be in the Road Commission’s best interest to sell at auction or through bids. Michigan CAT has quoted $34,839.77 for a tandem Tow Master 20-ton tag trailer and $155,867.91 for a CAT 308 excavator with all options. Both items were quoted through our Sourcewell government purchasing program. Discussion was held. Supt./Mgr will obtain quote for 309 model. The purchase of the trailer was moved to New Business for action.
* Lake Street from Fireside south to Garner is getting beyond repair. The asphalt surface is nonexistent in some areas. It is the Supt./Mgr.’s recommendation that it be returned to gravel so maintenance can be performed.
* Supt./Mgr forwarded the letter of direction to Wade Trim Engineering firm related to the possible Lost Lake Road relocation project request from Mr. Berg.
* Greg Litwinski asked Supt./Mgr to discuss his drainage issue with the Board once again. Supt./Mgr stated there is no issue with the road bed at Leer Road and Metz Highway where the water is pooling. Mr. Litwinski would like a cross culvert installed under Leer Road to drain the water. Mr. Litwinski has been advised in the past that the water issue is an agricultural water problem and should be addressed by EGLE, not the Road Commission. Mr. Litwinski is going to contact USDA for help in pumping of water being rerouted to his property.
* The Road Commission has been asked to consider using a parcel of our property for solar power farming. Demeter Land Development. Discussion was held and no action taken.
* The building permit for the Rogers City storage structure is being obtained.
* Presque Isle Township is interested in sealcoating Kauffman Blvd. In addition to this local road, the Supt./Mgr is recommending sealcoating Kauffman Road from Kauffman Blvd to Grand Lake Road. Estimates have been prepared and sent to the Township for consideration.
* Three bridges have been approved for maintenance work in 2026. Ocqueoc Bridge over Ocqueoc River,

Leer Road Bridge over Thunder Bay River and Hagensville Bridge over Thunder Bay River.

* The temporary easement documents for 451 projects and the Monaghan Creek Bridge (over Shubert highway) have been completed.
* Supt./Mgr and Commissioner Macomber have been asked to present at the Presque Isle Men’s Club on December 7, 2023.

***Visitors:***

Dave Campo and Rick Adias, Presque Isle Sno Trails, appeared before the Board to request permission to install signs along the temporary snowmobile trail coming into Rogers City from the south. The DNR recently approved the trail which will utilize County Road 638 and 441 Highway. The signs would include arrows and stop ahead signs. Supt./Mgr Kowalski discussed placing the signs far enough back so the grader wing could avoid damaging them in the areas that drift.

The status of the Swan River bridge replacement on the trail was discussed. Without permission from Carmeuse to cross their properties it is unlikely the bridge replacement will occur.

Mr. Campo asked if Aviation Highway could have some maintenance work done as it is rough.

Supt./Mgr and Commissioners did not oppose placement of the signs on the temporary snowmobile trail.

Visitors thanked the Board and left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

***Unfinished Business:***

Commissioner Macomber reported on a complaint received from a citizen regarding the poor line of sight at Wildcat corner. Discussion was held.

Chairman Quaine asked about the status of right of way permits from Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. Supt./Mgr Kowalski stated he is getting five to eight permits per week at this time.

***New Business:***

The 2023 Safety Allowance amount was discussed at length.

Payroll/HR Clerk Paull presented information on a vision benefit available to the Road Commission. Several options were noted with different co pays and allowances. The amount for the plan would not impact our compliance with PA 152 limits. Discussion was held.

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to increase 2023 Safety Allowance to $400.00 for this year and purchase Option #1 of the vision benefit at a cost of $4,611.00 per year (Single - $8.28 per month, Two person - $15.73 per month and Family - $23.10 per month) with this rate guaranteed for four years.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Catalano (Quaine) to authorize expenses for Commissioners, Supt./Mgr and Clerk to attend the CRA Legal Issues/Active Shooter workshop on December 5, 2023 in Mt. Pleasant.

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to enter an agreement with Rogers Township to reconstruct and pave Airport Highway from US-23 to 451 Highway (868 feet) at an estimated cost of $37,236.00 with Rogers Township share to be $24,203.40 and Road Commission share to be $13,032.60.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to enter an agreement with Huron Pines Conservatory to replace a culvert on Canada Creek Highway in 2024 with Huron Pines purchasing the culvert and the Road Commission contributing approximately $25,000.00 with in kind labor and equipment use.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to authorize purchase of a used 2004 Ford 1-Ton Dually from D’s Honda Sales for up to $16,500.00

Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to authorize purchase of a new Tow Master trail from Michigan CAT for $34,839.77.

Ayes: Macomber, Catalano, Quaine

Chairman Quaine set a Public Hearing for the purpose of accepting comments on the proposed 2024 Budget for Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

The next regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission will be, Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Quaine adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.