**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 2, 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:** Norman Quaine, Thomas Catalano, Robert Macomber

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

**Visitors:** County Commissioner Clifford Tollini, County Commissioner Chairman John Chappa, Posen Township Supervisor James Zakshesky, Bismarck Township Trustee Lloyd Thomas Dullack, Belknap Township Supervisor and City of Rogers City Planner Toby Kuznicki, Ocqueoc Township Trustee Susan Radke, NEMCOG Representative Nico Tucker

***Minutes:***

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to approve minutes from September 18, 2024 regular meeting.

Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to approve the October 2, 2024 accounts payable in the amount of $417,793.18

Ayes: Catalano, Quaine, Macomber

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

* Employee Caleb gave two weeks’ notice on September 19, 2024. A possible replacement, Nicholas Klave, is currently employed by Alcona County Road Commission. Mr. Klave is moving to Belknap Township and is seeking work here. Alcona County Road Commission Manager, Jesse Campbell, gave him a very good referral. Supt./Mgr has scheduled a meeting for Monday, October 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to interview him.
* Supt./Mgr has received a request for installation of “Blind Person” signs on Nagel Highway and for the Board’s opinion. Discussion was held with no opposition to installing the signs.
* Supt./Mgr advised the Board over one million dollars in maintenance under our MDOT State trunkline contract has been done this year.
* Private citizens in Bearinger Township would like to donate money to apply Permazyne to the gravel portion of Bluffs Highway between Black Mt Road to the asphalt. The private donation would cover the Township cost share amount. Discussion was held with it being noted the funds must be channeled through the County Treasurer’s Office per Act 51 law. The Road Commission cannot legally accept money directly from the public. Alpena County Road Commission recently had a similar situation. Item moved to New Business for action
* The Park and Ride at US-23 and 638 Highway (Grand Lake) has been completed.
* The Lake Nettie paving project has been finished except for stripping.
* Bit-Mat Materials has contacted Supt./Mg with the possibility of them extending 2024 pricing into 2025 for our emulsion oils for sealcoating and durapatching.
* R/T Excavating (Roy Tulgetske) has finished with our first 50,000 tons of gravel and the royalties have been paid to DORVIN Properties.
* Influenza vaccinations are being offered on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. McLean Pharmacist Tom Gajewski comes here to vaccinate interested persons.
* The US-23 / Airport Highway curbing is done and the paving will be done this year yet

***9:00 am –*** Chairman Catalano closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

Chairman reopened the regular meeting at 9:20 a.m.

***Visitors:***

Ocqueoc Township Susan Radke expressed concern regarding the intersection of US-23 and N. Ocqueoc Road as the line of sight is very short when a vehicle turns north from N. Ocqueoc Road. Ms. Radke requested a “Blind Intersection” sign be installed on US-23 before the intersection. Supt./Mgr Kowalski explained it is a MDOT decision to put up the signs on US-23. The Road Commission has been denied signage for Park Drive emergency vehicle traffic and recently joined with the Emergency Services Coordinator, Sara Melching, to support the effort. It was suggested Ocqueoc Township should contact Sara Melching who is requesting assistance from State Representative Cam Cavitt.

Additionally, concerns about Amish buggies traveling in the dark in the township were brought forth. The Troyer families do not have reflectors or lights on the wagons and are at risk. Ocqueoc Township is willing to pay for signs. Ocqueoc Township has also received complaints of horse manure on the roads. Discussion was held with it being noted the Mio area has a township ordinance requiring horse manure catcher bags on horses traveling the roads. Supt./Mgr Kowalski stated the Road Commission would be willing to install caution signs and asked for Ocqueoc Township to provide possible locations. Commissioner Tollini suggested checking to see if metro Authority funding could be used to purchase the signs.

County Commissioner John Chappa asked when the Shubert Highway Bridge over Monaghan Creek was scheduled for replacement. Supt./Mgr Kowalski stated the 1.3 billion project is ready to go and scheduled for 2025. There was an issue getting a contractor to build it. Discussion was held about the long detour route.

Ambulance Board member Lloyd (Tom) Dullack also expressed support to have Emergency Vehicle signs installed at US-23/Park Drive. Additionally, he gave complements to the Road Commission for the recent paving of Lake Nettie Road. Discussion was held regarding the numbers of driveways and various heights entering the roadway. Supt./Mgr Kowalski stated two driveways required additional work and water runoff issues were addressed.

Belknap Township Supervisor Toby Kuznicki asked if the section of 441 Highway between E. Mill Road to south of the 638 Highway/441 intersection was included in roads to be repaired by DTE Little Trout Solar project. Discussion was held. The solar project tentatively has an October 31, 2024 completion date and roads will be inspected at that time. Some maintenance work such as shoulder gravel installation has been in progress throughout the project.

***Unfinished Business:***

Chairman Catalano asked if crews were working on grading and preparing gravel roads for the winter season. Supt./Mgr stated they were when time and weather permitted.

Commissioner Macomber and Quaine briefly reported on the Commissioner Seminar recently attended. The installation of sealcoat over new asphalt was discussed to add up to ten additional years to the life of the asphalt.

Commissioner Quaine asked if the Road Commission has policy for maintenance of alleys in platted subdivisions on lakes which lead to the water. An alley in Black Lake Bluffs is being used as a driveway by two adjoining property owners and it washes out frequently with heavy rains. This has raised the question of whether the Road Commission needs to maintain these type access points. Discussion was held. Commissioner Quaine is going to complete further research and bring the topic back to the Board at a future meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the docks the Road Commission maintains at public access road ends. Ocqueoc Township Trustee Susan Radke stated they are working on a grant to install a handicap access at Ocqueoc Outdoor Center for kayak and canoe launching. This would provide another public access with a dock on Ocqueoc Lake.

***New Business:***

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Quaine and supported by Commissioner Macomber:

*RESOLUTION 2024-06*

***Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Presque Isle County Road Commission to enter MDOT Contract # 24-5381***

***Control Number #EDD 71000***

***Job Number # 211771CON***

WHEREAS, there has been presented to this meeting a desire of the Commissioners of Presque Isle County Road Commission to enter a contract between Presque Isle Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

WHEREAS, this Board has reviewed the Contract # 24-5381 and finds it is in the best interest and to the benefit of the Presque Isle County Road Commission to enter such a contract to

Single course chip and fog seal along West County Road 638 from Lost Lake Road to Pinkerton Avenue; and all together will necessary related work.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that Supt./Mgr David A. Kowalski of the Presque Isle County Road Commission is authorized to digitally sign and execute such documents, in the name and on behalf of this County Road Commission.

THIS RESOLUTION is effective this date, with all present Commissioners voting affirmatively.

Clerk Wirgau presented 3rd Quarter 2024 Financial Reports and reviewed proposed Budget amendments. A net decrease of $39,045.00 in revenue was noted. Capital Outlay for the year is at $549,352.59 with the fit-out equipment for the new Western Star unpaid at this time. Commissioner Tollini asked what the normal budgeted amount is. Clerk Wirgau indicated between $800,00 to $1,000,000 and believes we will be within budget this year.

A motion was made by Quaine (Macomber) to accept the reports and amend the 2024 Budget as proposed.

Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

A motion was made by Macomber (Quaine) to authorize funding the Bluffs Highway permazyne project with the Road Commission share to be $7,328.00. The township cost share of $13,609.00 to be covered by private donation through the County Treasurer’s office.

Ayes: Catalano, Macomber, Quaine

The next scheduled regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission are set for Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

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



