**Presque Isle County Road Commission**

**Minutes**

**September 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, Thomas Catalano, Robert Macomber

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

**Visitors:** Clifford Tollini – Presque Isle County Commissioner, Sandy Broughman – Case Twp resident, Alan Pines – Baker Road resident

***Minutes:***

 A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to approve minutes from August 16, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

 Ayes: All

***Accounts Payable:***

 A motion was made by Macomber (Catalano) to approve the September 6, 2023 accounts payable in the amount of $235,150.47

 Ayes: Quaine, Catalano, Macomber

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

• Supt./Mgr placed an order for the underbody scrapers from Heights Equipment Sales.

• After several discussions with our engineer and MDOT, they will not allow us to put down the gravel on 638 Presque Isle Township project. However, R.R.Scott & Associates has lowered the amount of asphalt to be used and removed the road commission from the gravel hauling and installation, this lowered our costs to $214,309.00 with Presque Isle Township paying $95,000.00 leaving us with $119,309.00.

• Karsten and Wirgau Road were treated with calcium chloride.

• Supt./Mgr attended a MDOT meeting with Eric Precord, our TSC representative, and to date we have spent $1,015,813.32 dollars and have $28,659.68 left to achieve our 1-million-dollar goal for the second year.

• The Black Mallard bridge on US 23 will be undergoing some emergency repairs by MDOT this fall and be down to a one lane closure.

• Supt./Mgr has contacted Mr. Davies on Hill St concerning our right of way he has infringed upon with fencing and brush. (Mr. Davies threatened to shoot the Supt./Mgr) after a lengthy conversation he has agreed to meet me on site and show him what we are actually going to do. Discussion was held and Board felt it would be prudent to have law enforcement present when meeting with Mr. Davies.

• The foreman and Supt./Mgr have decided to make the Lake Nettie project a 2024 project as we still have Petersville Road to finish.

• The July MTF was up 5.5% or $42,000.00 dollars from last years numbers.

• Carrie Walsh has accepted the position as truck driver in the Posen garage. Will be starting on the September 18, 2023.

• Max Garcia will be moving from the Onaway garage to the Rogers City facility creating an opening in the Onaway garage. Rick has several prospects for filling the position. Discussion was held.

• The crew representatives have asked if the board would consider increasing the “clothing allowance” for a one-time larger amount. Supt./Mgr encouraged this option instead of opening the contract for negotiating a higher rate of pay.

• Eric Precord, MDOT TSC Maintenance Coordinator, will do snow plow training for all employees this fall, will be a good thing for the new hires.

• Bolen Construction has started 451, Supt./Mgr gave a copy of the progress schedule to the Board.

• A rural task force discussion was held regarding which roads to add to the Illustrative List.

***Visitors:***

Sandy Broughman, resident of Case Township on Trout Lane, appeared before the Board to discuss driver safety at the intersection of Ocqueoc Road and Orcutt Highway. Mr. Broughman stated the area is low and becomes foggy frequently. He is working with townships (Case and Ocqueoc) to get an overhead security light installed at the intersection without much success so far. He presented a petition signed by residents and a map of traffic accidents in the area to the Board. County Commissioner Tollini stated Allis Township has in the past used Metro Authority Funding to pay for street lights. Discussion was held. Mr. Broughman is requesting from the Road Commission two “Intersection Ahead” signs along with the Road name sign be installed at the intersection of Ocqueoc Road and Orcutt Highway. Item moved to New Business for further action.

 County Commissioner Tollini noted a rough area on 3 Mile Highway east of Porter Road approximately 50 yards from the stop sign. There are culverts there which are sinking and should be checked out.

 Discussion was held regarding a possible project on 5 Mile Highway going into the GLF landfill. Per Chairman Quaine the landfill is currently filling its last cell. Discussion was held about the merit of spending money on a road which may not be utilized as heavily in the future. Chairman Quaine suggested tabling the matter until it is known whether the landfill will be expanded to further properties adjacent to the current licensed area. The section of road approaching the intersection of M-33 was talked about.

 Alan Pines, resident of Baker Road, appeared before the Board to discuss the County Road right of way along Baker Road. Several photos were reviewed with it being noted Mr. Snow has complied with a few Road Commission requests such as moving the deer blind off the right of way, removal of equipment and removal of steel posts. However, Mr. Pines pointed out a pile of pipes and logs on the right of way along with Mr. Snow planting crop up to the woods line on the road. Lengthy discussion was held. Chairman Quaine is in favor of having a centerline survey and staking done to clearly indicate where the deeded right of way is. Supt./Mgr suggested installing steel posts to end the ongoing use dispute between neighbors. Chairman Quaine and Commissioner Macomber briefly reviewed the surveys Mr. Pines presented and Chairman will contact Surveyor Adam LaLonde for an estimate to survey the property in question.

***Unfinished Business:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to authorize the hiring of one additional Truck Driver position at the Posen Garage.

 Ayes: Macomber, Catalano, Quaine

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to cast an affirmative vote for two incumbent candidates (Mark Christensen and David Pettersch) from the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions (NMARC) for two trustee positions on the CRA Board for a two-year term.

 Ayes: All

 A motion was made by Catalano (Macomber) to authorize the installation of two “Intersection Ahead” signs along with the Road name “Orcutt Highway” for the intersection of Ocqueoc Road and Orcutt Highway.

 Ayes: Quaine, Macomber, Catalano

 Upcoming conferences include the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions at Manistee September 13-15, 2023 and the Commissioners Seminar at Mt. Pleasant October 22-23, 2023.

 The next regular meetings of the Presque Isle County Road Commission will be, Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

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