

APPROVED MINUTES
ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Pursuant to resolution, the Regular Meeting of the Alger County Road Commission was held at the Road Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chair Marci Taskey with the following members present: Marci Taskey, Pete Heyrman & John Hermann. Absent: None.

Also present: Finance Director Daniel Rushford, Dan Carlson, Shane Bugg, Jason Whitaker, David Squier, Tim Swajanen, Heidi Swajanen, Mike Matthews & Mickey Rondeau.

APPROVAL/CHANGES TO AGENDA

A motion was made by John Hermann to approve the agenda. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 1/15/24 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the minutes of the 1/15/2024 Regular meeting. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources was sent to us regarding our upcoming H-58 closure for next snowmobile season. Lindbeck provided a written response that the board agreed with, but all three board members would like to sign the letter.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the Accounts Payable, which is due in the January in the amount of \$159,390.41 and to authorize payment when funds are available. Supported by John Hermann. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ENGINEER/MANAGER REPORT

MDOT Maintenance Work:

As winter maintenance lags, our foremen are strategizing to perform tree cutting for MDOT.

State Bridge Bundling Options for Woodland Road Bridge and Kivamaki Road Bridge:

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The planning process continues for both structures, with construction delayed until funds become available.

H-58 over the Sucker River Bridge:

Preliminary plans include a 40-foot span precast concrete arch bridge structure. Final plans and advertisement will likely occur in the spring of 2024. Plans are currently 60 percent complete. The EGLE permit is targeted for submittal on January 19th. The goal is to advertise for bids on or about March 15th and award the project in mid-April.

Chapel Road Construction Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant:

Bacco Construction plans to begin earthwork, after weight restrictions are removed in 2024.

2024 H-58 Project (Miners Castle Road to 1.5 miles East):

The project has been awarded to Payne & Dolan, Inc.

Rapid River Truck Trail Pulverizing and Paving Bids:

Sealed bids are due on February 14th at 1:00 p.m. for the budgeted paving project.

Ridge Road Paving Bids:

Sealed bids are due on February 14th at 1:30 p.m. for the budgeted paving project, which is scheduled in cooperation with AuTrain Township. This project will allow for pulverizing of the existing 273-foot paved section, extending south from M-28 and re-paving with a 600-foot-long section.

Wilson and Woodruff Streets Paving Bids:

Sealed bids are due on February 14th at 2:00 p.m. for the budgeted paving project in Burt Township.

Johnson Lane Bridge over the Laughing Whitefish River:

I have been contacted by the landowner for the property that lies over the Laughing Whitefish River. David Squier has met with Ontota Township to request fire access to his proposed new home building site. I have spoken with Terry Pihlinen, Onota Township Supervisor, and they are interested in the possibility of funding a pre-fabricated bridge as their contribution. Under this scenario, would the Road Commission be interested in facilitating the placement of the bridge? (in the same manner that Onota and ACRC worked together on Risku Road Bridge AND Karvonen Road Bridge). I have met with VanStraten Brothers, of Baraga to secure scoping estimates and bridge configurations, for both the Road Commission Board and the Onota Township Board to consider. If both entities approve moving forward with a contract agreement, I could complete the EGLE permit, advertise for bids, and complete the work in 2024.

H-58 Snowmobile Trail #422 at Miners River:

I have received correspondence from Mr. Olson, of the MDNR. The letter is provided for Road Commission's February 5th meeting. The MDNR is urging the Road Commission to allow continued use of the newly paved surface, continuing on from December 1, 2024. I have prepared a DRAFT letter for the Board to review. I ask that the Board approve the letter and direct me to send it to all parties involved, or provide instructions for modifying the letter.

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Front End Loader Bids:

As the Board will recall, we budgeted for a new loader in 2023. Costs had escalated so much that we held off until 2024 and increased the budgeted total expenditure to \$320,000. We will be trading our CASE 821C loader. McCoy Forestry, of Escanaba, has located a 2023 644P loader that has 390 hours. I have advertised for a 2023 or newer CAT 950 series or Deere 644 with less than 500 hours. The 950 machine that CAT bid does not have a steering wheel. Consistency in controls between our loaders translates to both safety and operability for all employees. The main need for a large-size loader is for handling our snow blower. The 950 also lags in horsepower, behind the 644. Although the new 950 may be an ideal pit-loader, I believe that the 644 model (which more closely meets our specifications and needs) is the best loader for the Road Commission. I recommend award to McCoy for the 2023 644 machine, with a full 5-year warranty.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

LOADER BIDS

Dealership/ Manufacturer	Year/ Model/ Hours	GVW (Min 42,000 lbs)	Horsepower (Min: 240 @ 1,800 RPM)	Bucket Size (Min 4.5 Cu Yds)	Joystick Control s with Steering Wheel	Price	Trade for 1999 Case 821C	Net Price After Trade
Fabick/ Caterpillar	2024 950 11 Hours	Y	231 HP @ 2,100 RPM*	4.5 Cu Yds	N**	\$308,550.00	\$20,000.00	\$288,550.00
McCoy/ John Deere	2023 644 391 Hours	Y	249 HP @ 1,800 RPM	4.5 Cu Yds	Y	\$334,961.00	\$16,000.00	\$318,961.00
McCoy/ John Deere	2024 644 0 Hours	Y	249 HP @ 1,800 RPM	4.5 Cu Yds	Y	365,906.00	\$16,00.00	\$349,906.00

*Non Conforming Horsepower

**Non Conforming Steering Wheel

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A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to accept all three bids and place on file. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Hermann to award the loader bid for the John Deere 644 with 391 hours for a price of \$334,961.00 with a trade in of our 1999 Case 821C for \$16,000.00 with a net cost of \$318,961.00. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Taskey & Heyrman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

JOHNSON LANE BRIDGE DISCUSSION

David Squier, a property owner on the other side of the Johnson Lane Bridge, spoke about how he would like to build on his property and will be able to once the bridge is built. A motion was made by John Hermann to table the discussion until Lindbeck is present at the next meeting. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Taskey & Heyrman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

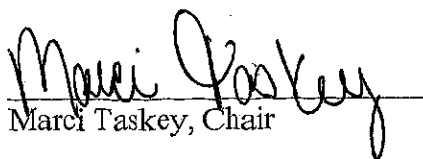
COMMISSIONER TOPICS

Marci Taskey spoke of the U.P. Road Builders Conference held last week in Marquette. One of the topics discussed were disappearing revenues due to electronic vehicles. There is talk of a usage fee, but it is said that it won't be enough. HB4897 has to do with being able to use MDOT equipment on joint projects. Gayle Cummings of our insurance pool spoke of the recent ISD requests for a partnership recommending we do not accept their offer. There are currently two lawsuits pending.

John Hermann feels that if the Engineer-Manager is not able to make the meeting that it should either be rescheduled or cancelled. There hasn't been any discussion on Sandy Lane in Burt Township recently and would like it to be on the agenda for 2/19. All maps should be digitized and would like to have it on the agenda for 2/19.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.


Marci Taskey, Chair


Daniel Rushford, Finance Director