

APPROVED MINUTES
ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
September 5, 2023
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 Vice Chair Marci Taskey with the following members present: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann, & Marci Taskey. Absent: None.

Also present: Engineer/Manager, Robert Lindbeck, Shane Bugg, Dan Rushford, Dan Carlson, Mickey Rondeau, Christy Knaus & Roy Aho.

APPROVAL/CHANGES TO AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 08/21/23 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the minutes from the 08/21/23 Regular meeting as presented. Supported by John Hermann. Ayes: Taskey, Pete Heyrman, & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A motion was made by John Hermann to approve the Accounts Payable, which is due in the September in the amount of \$517,479.82 and to authorize payment when funds are available. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann & Taskey. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roy Aho stated that he was at the 8/21/2023 meeting, but was not listed in attendance. A change will be made to the approved minutes.

Mickey Rondeau had asked about the paving on the Rapid River Truck Trail. Lindbeck explained that it is taking place only where existing pavement is. We should have a contract in two weeks.

ENGINEER/MANAGER REPORT

MDOT Maintenance Work:

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Shoulder maintenance has also been approved for September along portions of US-41, and M-28.

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

The planning process continues for both structures, with construction delayed beyond 2023.

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 fall of 2023, with construction in 2024.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant:

The project is expected to move forward with the added \$355,000 of funding supplied through the FLAP program. An updated State/Local Contract Agreement is expected, within the next 10-days.

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

Final plans were submitted to MDOT by August 1st. This will insure that we are first in line for obligation of funding, as the 2024 fiscal year begins in October. It is my goal to secure a February 2024 bid letting for this project.

Perry Road and Grove Street (AuTrain Township paving projects):

The two roads have been prepared for paving. Bacco Construction has scheduled paving for September 6th.

Anthony Street (Grand Island Township paving project):

Bacco Construction has tentatively scheduled paving for September 12th. Road Commission crews have completed all preparatory work.

City Limits Road (Munising Township project):

The project is COMPLETE.

Rapid River Truck Trail Pavement Reconstruction 2024:

We are awaiting the US Forest Service contract for \$288,000 toward an estimated \$577,000 project to crush, shape, and repave the 2-mile section of pot-holed pavement extending south from M-94. The project will be included in our 2024 budget.

Asset Management Plan Updates:

I have completed the updated plan by applying 2023 road ratings to the 2020 Roadsoft data. Over the last 3-years, we have maintained ratings (with the percentage of poor roads actually being reduced slightly. In 2020, 25% of our Primary Roads were rated poor, with the sum of good and fair roads at 75%. In 2023, 24% are poor and the sum of good and fair have risen to 76%. The 2023 plan goal is that we maintain our system in its current condition. I recommend that the Board approves the plan, so I may upload it to the State website.

H-58 Speed Study and Ice Cave Road No Parking:

The traffic analysis supported leaving the current speed zones along H-58, near Grand Marais, in place. Following an analysis of traffic patterns and snow removal needs, Dan Verlin of the Michigan State Police recommends that all existing "no parking" signs remain in the Ice Cave

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area, and that the north side of Ice Cave Road be signed as a no parking area. I agree with both studies and urge the Road Commission Board to concur with the Michigan State Police.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER/H-58 SPEED STUDY

Burt Township requested a speed study on H-58 and was conducted by Sgt Verlin of the Michigan State Police. No changes have been made. A motion was made by John Hermann to reaffirm the speed study. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann & Taskey. Nays: None. Motion carried.

TRAFFIC CONTROL STUDY/ICE CAVES ROAD PARKING

A traffic control order was conducted on Frey Road on Rock River Township. It was determined that there should be no parking allowed on the south side of the road. A motion has made by John Hermann to support the Traffic Control Order. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann & Taskey. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL 2023

A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the 2023 Asset Management Plan. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann & Taskey. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roy Aho voiced his concerns on the M-67/US-41 Intersection explaining how dangerous it can be, along with M-67 from Trenary Ave to the Community Center allowing for passing in one direction. Lindbeck explained that this is out of our jurisdiction and that he should contact the MDOT Transportation Service Center in Newberry.

COMMISSIONER TOPICS

John Hermann mentioned that treasury notes have increased to around 4-5% and that we should look into refinancing. Lindbeck explained that Gariepy worked with Peoples State Bank on negotiating a higher rate on August 22.

John Herman expressed a concern that union wages are not keeping up with inflation. In order to retain our workforce, employees must be compensated competitively. He explained that he wants the union to receive an immediate cost of living bonus. Lindbeck explained that contract negotiations will begin in nearly six months and that he agreed with paying employees to the

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best of our ability. Commissioner Hermann requested that Union Negotiation Strategy be placed on the next agenda to discuss an inflation bonus.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Marci Taskey, Chair

James Gariepy, Finance Director