

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
September 18, 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 Chair Marci Taskey with the following members present: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann, & Marci Taskey. Absent: None.

Also present: Engineer/Manager, Robert Lindbeck, Finance Director James Garipey, Dan Rushford, Dan Carlson, & Brian Menghini.

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 09/05/23 REGULAR MEETING

John Hermann explained that he wants the minutes to reflect that he wanted to give the employees an immediate cost of living bonus in Commissioner topics. A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the minutes from the 09/05/23 Regular meeting with the addition of Commissioner John Hermann request. 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 \$271,339.33 and to authorize payment when funds are available. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann & Taskey. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Menghini questioned the minutes of 8/21/23 under public comment.

ENGINEER/MANAGER REPORT

MDOT Maintenance Work:

Shoulder maintenance will be performed, through September.

State Bridge Bundling Options for Woodland Road Bridge and Kivamaki Road Bridge:
The planning process continues for both structures, with construction delayed beyond 2023.

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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:

An updated State/Local Contract Agreement is expected, in the near future.

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

I have completed design of this 2024 Federal Aid project. 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 COMPLETED.

Anthony Street (Grand Island Township paving project):

The project has been COMPLETED.

Rapid River Truck Trail Pavement Reconstruction 2024:

The US Forest Service contract is available for approval 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. I recommend the board approve this contract.

William Hill Road and Sandy Lane (Burt Township Projects):

The Munising and Grand Marais foreman have coordinated to haul gravel to Grand Marais for the two projects. We are projected to combine forces for the placement and grading of the gravel, during the first two weeks of October.

Superintendent's Conference of Michigan (SAM):

The three foremen will be attending the upcoming conference in Frankenmuth. The event is scheduled for October 4-6.

Fall Safety Meeting:

The meeting has been coordinated with CRASIF and MCRCSIP and will be held on September 30th.

Union Contract Negotiations:

During the last Board meeting, commissioner Hermann suggested opening the Union Contract immediately. I strongly disagree with prematurely opening the Contract, as we are set to begin negotiations for the current 3-year agreement in approximately 6-months. I recommend that the Board begin negotiating with the Union in early April. I urge the Board to recognize the stellar performance and sincere dedication of the union members at that time.

Staffing Update:

Jim Gariepy will be retiring as Finance Director on September 30, and Dan Rushford has been promoted and will be Finance Director as of October 1. Theresa Koenig was hired as our Administrative Assistant and will start on September 25.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

US FOREST SERVICE AGREEMENT/RAPID RIVER TRUCK TRAIL

A motion was made by John Hermann to approve the Forest Service Agreement for upgrading the Rapid River Truck Trail and authorize Taskey to sign the agreement. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, John Hermann & Taskey. Nays: None. Motion carried.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY

John Hermann stated that he has no more discussion on this issue at this time. His intent was to give employees an immediate cost of living bonus.

COMMISSIONER TOPICS

Taskey asked about a failing culvert on Coaster Road.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Marci Taskey, Chair

James Gariepy, Finance Director