

APPROVED MINUTES
ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
December 11, 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: Marci Taskey, Pete Heyrman & John Hermann. Absent: None.

Also present: Engineer/Manager, Robert Lindbeck, Finance Director Daniel Rushford, Dan Carlson, C.J. Custard, Rick Nebel, Jim Rondeau & Brian Menghini.

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 11/20/23 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Pete Heyrman to approve the minutes from the 11/20/23 Regular meeting. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & 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 December in the amount of \$154,118.01 and to authorize payment when funds are available. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ENGINEER/MANAGER REPORT

MDOT Maintenance Work:
Winter maintenance continues.

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:

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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.

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

Bacco Construction has completed clearing this fall. Construction will begin, after weight restrictions are removed in 2024.

Rapid River Truck Trail Pavement Reconstruction 2024:

Paving bids will be advertised in February of 2024.

Road Commission Financial Investment Options:

As discussed during the November 20th Board Meeting, I have researched short-term investments with our Finance Director. The Alger County Road Commission has an extremely limited bank account balance, for an entity with an annual budget of our size. Due to the lag in winter maintenance revenue and the uncertainty of transportation funding, a portion may possibly be made available for a 6-month CD investment. I advise the Board to refrain from entering a term of greater length. I have asked Mr. Rick Nebel of Peoples State Bank to attend our December 11th meeting to explain what rates are available with our current accounts and options for short-term investments.

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

MDOT has approved the completed design of this 2024 Federal Aid project. It is on schedule for a January 2024 bid letting. An MDOT Agreement is expected, within the next 60-days.

AuTrain Pit Gravel Crushing Bids 2024:

Sealed bids were advertised and opened publicly on November 22nd. I recommend award to Bacco Construction Company, Inc.

Seasonal Road Upgrade Request (Burt Township Supervisor):

The Burt Township Supervisor, Ms. Shafer, has requested that a 0.60-mile section of Sandy Lane be upgraded to year-around maintenance standard. The Township and the Road Commission cooperatively placed gravel on this sandy, seasonal road in 2023. The Township has now requested that a plow turnaround be added and that plowing extends to that point. The construction of a plow turnaround was not part of the 2023 graveling project. I recommend that the work deemed necessary by our Grand Marais Foreman (to turn around a plow) be estimated to the Township for a future project, before plowing is attempted.

H-58 Snowmobile Trail #422 Continued Use Request (MDNR):

I have received a written request from Mr. Ron Yesney, of the MDNR, to continue using the paved surface of H-58 at the Miners River AFTER the 2024 paving project. This situation was first conveyed on January 23, 2015, in a letter to the MDNR. The 2015 letter was drafted, after meeting with the MDNR in 2014. The MDNR has had 10-years to establish a trail. I strongly encourage the Road Commission to stand firm on the December 1, 2024 deadline for trail removal.

OLD BUSINESS

H-58 Snowmobile Trail at Miners River-Munising Visitors Bureau/SORVA

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Sean O'Neill, president of SORVA, was asking for the board's stance on snowmobiles. He stated that he is the new club president and is concerned that a closure to snowmobiles on H-58 at the Miners River would set a precedence in the future.

A motion was made by John Hermann to direct the Engineer-Manager to respond to the DNR letter to inform them that our prior communicated plans to end snowmobile trail use on H-58 at the Miners River on December 1, 2024 will remain in effect. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Au Train Pit 22A Gravel Bids

Bidder:	Bacco Construction Co.
25,000 Tons Of Processed Gravel, 22A	\$5.35/ton= \$133,750.00
Total Tons Available	25,000

A motion was made by John Hermann to accept the bid from Bacco Construction. 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 bid to Bacco Construction. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Investment Options-Rick Nebel, Peoples State Bank

Mr. Nebel spoke of our investment options as requested by our board. After discussion, it was determined that with the size of our cash flow throughout the year, we should not be putting our money into bonds, but leave them into our accounts as they are.

Burt Township Seasonal Road Upgrade Request

John Hermann made a motion for the Engineer-Manager to draw up an estimate to upgrade 0.60 miles of Sandy Lane in Burt Township to all-season status and adhere to our current

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policy of removing roads from seasonal status. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The 2024 Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Monthly Income Statement

John Hermann requested the Finance Director to provide a monthly breakdown of cash flow showing dates of deposits made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nebel asked if a light snow year helps or hurts the Alger County Road Commission. Lindbeck explained that light hurts us since our payroll and equipment of employees is not being charged as much on the state highway.

COMMISSIONER TOPICS

Marci Taskey attended a Legal Symposium by the County Road Association last week. She spoke of broadband issues throughout the state. Lindbeck added that these are not issues that we face in our community with our telecommunication companies. She also mentioned that lawsuits have been affecting workers' compensation rates.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Marci Taskey, Chair

Daniel Rushford, Finance Director