

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

Also present: Engineer/Manager, Robert Lindbeck, Finance Director Daniel Rushford, Dan Carlson, C.J. Custard & Shane Bugg.

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 12/11/23 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Marci Taskey to approve the minutes from the 12/11/23 Regular meeting. Supported by John Hermann. 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 \$190,280.23 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 plans to begin earthwork, after weight restrictions are removed in 2024.

Rapid River Truck Trail Pavement Reconstruction 2024:

Paving bids will be advertised in February of 2024. The Contract for nearly \$300,000 of Forest Resource Funds is in place.

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 30-days.

New Plow Truck:

The Western Star 4700 series chassis arrived at U.P. Truck Center, in Iron Mountain, in early December. The truck will be delivered to Truck & Trailer Specialties for installation of the box, plow, and attachments. We will likely have the truck ready for service in April or May. Equipment costs continue to rise and delivery dates are pushed back on nearly every product.

2024 Updates to the 5-Year Equipment Plan:

Each year an updated 5-Year Equipment plan is brought before the Board for approval. The 2024 plan is changed to allow the Loader for Munising to be pushed from 2023 to 2024 and increase the cost to \$320,000. The fifth-year has been inserted, with a focus on the necessity for plow trucks. I request that the Board approve this plan.

2024 Asset Management Plan Calculations:

Each year I analyze the proposed road projects (both reconstruction and preventative maintenance) to insure that we are meeting the goal set forth in our Asset Management Plan. The plan states that the Road Commission will maintain our Federal Aid and Primary Road network at the current condition. The Board approved an updated 3-Year plan in September of 2023. MDOT could withhold MTF funding to an agency that fails to meet the Asset Management Plan goals. I have documented that 127.31 mile-years of improvement will be made in 2024. That proves that our 127 miles of applicable roadway will not deteriorate below the current level.

2023 Year-End and 2024 Budget:

The Finance Director and I have analyzed the budget year ending 2023 and the projected 2024 budget. As our new Finance Director, Dan Rushford has accepted the opportunity to have Mr. Garipey overlook his first Year-End accounting and Budget Process. The two of them worked closely together, during the week of December 11th. MTF closely matched the budgeted amount for 2023. A number of budgeted contributions did not materialize, because the projects did not advance to construction. The Federal Lands Access Funds (FLAP), the Bridge Bundling dollars, and the US Fish and Wildlife funds for the Sucker River Bridge did not add to our revenues. With no revenues and no expenditures, the funds did not affect the Road Commission adversely. The 2022 budget year indicates a productive year, with many

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improvements to our system. Our partnership with Townships was the key to improving the road system.

Our 5-year average expenditures on MDOT's system continue to increase the State Highway Maintenance Contract (\$2,172,045 for 2024). The partnership with MDOT has been a rewarding alliance, as we continue to use County equipment, materials, and labor on the highways

The 2024 budget also shows continued improvement to our equipment and roads. We will utilize a blend of Township funding, grant dollars and MDOT funding. As shown on the 2024 Proposed Road and Bridge Project list, nearly \$394,000 in revenue is expected from our Townships. Almost \$300,000 is expected from the Forest Service for the reconstruction of the Rapid River Truck Trail. Our Rural Task Force Federal funds and State D funds will be used to reconstruct H-58, near the Miners River. The MDOT Bridge Bundling Program will provide investments in our system, with zero expenditures from the Road Commission. Chapel Road construction will be funded with Federal grant funds, while the Road Commission must pay for material testing and in-house construction engineering. The plan shows an investment in preventative maintenance for chip-sealing, crack-sealing, and pavement marking. Performing a mix of pavement construction and preservation is critical toward insuring our Asset Management Goal of keeping our pavement condition ratings at the current level.

As the Engineer-Manager, I have directed Mr. Rushford to insert a 3.5% increase in Foremen, Finance Director and Administrative Assistant wages for 2024. This is close to the projected MTF increase, over the 2023-2024 period. While being a fiscally responsible Road Commission, this recognizes their high level of performance and acknowledges the inflation experienced in 2023. Much of our foremen and crew payroll costs are spread over road maintenance, highway maintenance, and projects. In that way, a significant portion of the increase is covered by MDOT. I recommend that the Board adopt the budget, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

January Meeting Date Change

With the First Monday in January being the 1st of January, it was decided that the first meeting in January be changed to Tuesday the 2nd of January.

Alger Conservation District Fish Habitat Permission Form

A motion was made by John Hermann to approve the authorization form naming the Chair to sign, allowing the Alger Conservation District to cut trees in our right of way to create a fish habitat. Supported by Pete Heyrman. Ayes: Pete Heyrman, Marci Taskey & John Hermann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMISSIONER TOPICS

John Hermann mentioned that the Great Lakes Council will be meeting on Thursday the 4th of January at the Lakeside Inn in Baraga at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Marci Taskey, Chair

Daniel Rushford, Finance Director

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