

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALPENA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

October 3, 2023

The Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Alpena met in regular session on the above date. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Lucas, at 3:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Lucas, MacArthur, and Spaulding.

Absent: None.

Staff present: Ryan Brege, Managing Director; John Bygden, Superintendent; Julia Patterson, Finance Director/Board Secretary.

Others Present: Dan Florip, Road Commission Attorney; Rebecca Rivard, County Engineer from Huron Engineering and Surveying; Burt Francisco, Alpena County Commissioner.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by MacArthur, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 5, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Amy Matuszak, 11096 Beaver Lake Road, representing residents of Beaver Lake Road, appeared before the Board to give an update as to what she is doing in her quest to find grants to help get Beaver Lake Road paved.

Donnalee Krentz, 9720 Beaver Lake Road, commented that Beaver Lake Road is very dusty and wants the road paved.

Jerry Kaschner, 3621 Werth Road, appeared before the Board to question when the Road Commission will clean the ditch off Werth Road.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT**

Managing Director Ryan Brege reported the following:

- Long Rapids Road signing project plans are in review.
- Long Rapids Road Bridge, survey is complete, and plans are in progress.
- Airport Road, Hamilton Road, and Bagley Street are still in preliminary phase.

- Werth Road culvert replacement is complete.
  - Continuing union negotiations and will update the Board in closed session.
  - Attended the Northern Area Road Commission conference.
  - Budgeted \$35,000 for a chip spreader in 2023 but have become aware that it is not enough to purchase one. Road Commission is interested in one that costs \$135,000 and the seller would like a down payment of \$35,000 to hold it. The balance could be budgeted in the 2024 budget.
- Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to authorize Managing Director Ryan Brege to place the deposit of \$35,000 down on the chip spreader and pay the balance in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNTY ROAD REPORT**

The Superintendent presented the Board with an update on the County Roads.

**AUGUST CASH REPORT**

The Finance Director reviewed the August Cash Report for the month ended August 31, 2023.

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by MacArthur, that all reports become part of the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PICKUP BROOM BIDS**

One qualifying bid was received on October 2, 2023 from AIS Construction Equipment, Williamsburg, MI for the purchase of a pickup broom. Two other bids were received late.

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to accept the bid from AIS Construction for a cost of \$10,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**PURCHASES**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by MacArthur, to approve the following purchases in the amount of \$430,268.51:

9B. PURCHASES				
Item	PO/Inv.	Date	Description	Amount
1	MS 23271	9/18/23	Action Traffic Maintenance Inc., 2 (Two) portable traffic signals at \$29,250.00 each as per bid of July 10, 2023.	\$58,500.00
2	23005	9/18/23	Cadillac Culvert Inc., various culverts for MDOT project.	\$7,358.26
3	1217905	9/7/23	Compass Minerals, 347.14 tons County salt at \$66.35 per ton.	\$23,032.74
4	1220187	9/13/23	Compass Minerals, 1099.85 tons County salt at \$66.35 per ton.	\$72,975.05
5	23240004	10/1/23	County Road Association of Michigan, 2023-2024 Road Agency Service Charges	\$11,548.15
6	75345	9/6/23	Don's Tractor & Equipment Sales, to repair transmission on Tractor #316.	\$2,568.36
7	P.O. 100	9/15/23	Forward Energy, 2,699 gallons nolead gas at \$2.818 per gallon.	\$7,605.78

8	128186	9/18/23	Give'em A Brake Safety, Flagging control devices per bid of July 10, 2023.	\$25,695.00
9	2023-3047	9/13/23	Jack Millikin, Inc., 2000 tons of 2NS Sand at \$5.00 per ton.	\$10,000.00
10	175623	9/12/23	Michigan Paving & Materials Co., 5,794.99 gallons of CQSEA at \$1.9482 per gallon for primary roads sealcoats.	\$11,290.18
11	175469	9/6/23	Michigan Paving & Materials Co., 4,991.66 gallons of CQSEA at \$2.0107 per gallon for primary roads sealcoats.	\$10,036.99
12	866889	9/1/23	Team Elmer's, 2,464.86 tons of 23A at \$13.20 per ton for tailgate spread on gravel roads.	\$32,536.16
13	867272	9/22/23	Team Elmer's, 956.20 tons of 23A at \$13.20 per ton for tailgate spread on gravel roads.	\$12,621.84
14	867140	9/18/23	Team Elmer's, Construct M-32 Right Turn Lane (MDOT)	\$144,500.00
<b>TOTAL PURCHASES</b>				<b>\$430,268.51</b>

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONTRACT PAYMENTS**

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the following contract payments in the amount of \$370,821.31:

**9C. CONTRACT PAYMENTS**

Item	PO/Inv	Date	Description	Amount
1	10022023	10/2/23	Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc., Estimate #1 for Werth Road Culvert Replacement.	\$97,470.00
2	8300016949	9/21/2023	Fahrner Asphalt Sealers LLC, Crack sealing 11.80 miles of County roads.	\$49,678.00
3	9042023	9/4/2023	Michigan Department of Transportation, Contract payment #1 for Spruce Road Reconstruction.	\$214,530.81
4	7437	9/15/2023	Scott Civil Engineering Company, design engineering services for Long Rapids Road Bridge.	\$9,142.50
<b>TOTAL CONTRACT PAYMENTS</b>				<b>\$370,821.31</b>

Motion carried unanimously

**SEPTEMBER BILLS**

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the September 2023 bills in the amount of \$590,658.38. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Spaulding commented that he received a phone call from a resident regarding tar on his vehicle on French Road. Managing Director Ryan Brege responded that the issue has been resolved.

Commissioner MacArthur inquired about the gravel crushing in the pits and since the completion date was August 31<sup>st</sup> if the contractor-Team Elmers' is paying liquidated damages. Mr. Brege responded that Team Elmers' is paying \$150.00 per day for liquidated damages.

**WAGE DISCUSSION**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by MacArthur, to table the wage discussion until a later time. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HIGHWAY INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL**

Managing Director Ryan Brege has been working with EGLE regarding two contaminated soil sites in the Alpena County Road Commission's right-of-way. Mr. Brege was informed about a program that EGLE has implemented to reimburse up to \$200,000 per cleanup. To qualify for this program, the Alpena County Road Commission sites need to be registered with EGLE through a Public Highway Institutional Control.

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to authorize Mr. Brege to register with EGLE to enable the Alpena County Road Commission to participate in this program. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Alpena County Road Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Alpena County Road Commission building.

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by MacArthur, to go into closed session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement (MCL 15.268(1)(c)). Motion carried unanimously at 4:21 p.m.

The room was cleared and closed session began at 4:23 p.m.

Present for closed session: Commissioner Lucas, MacArthur, and Spaulding.

Absent: None.

Staff present for closed session: Ryan Brege, Managing Director; John Bygden, Superintendent.

Others present for closed session: Dan Florip, Road Commission Attorney.

The Commissioners discussed the status of ongoing negotiations with United Steelworkers Local 139.

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to return to open session at 4:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open session resumed at 4:56 p.m.

Present for resumption of open session: Commissioner Lucas, MacArthur, and Spaulding.

Absent: None.

Staff present for resumption of open session: Ryan Brege, Managing Director; John Bygden, Superintendent.

Others present for resumption of open session: Dan Florip, Road Commission Attorney.

Moved by MacArthur, seconded by Spaulding, to adopt the staff wage adjustments proposed by the Managing Director, effective November 1, 2023, as follows:

STAFF MEMBER	CURRENT PAY	INCREASE	NEW PAY	%INCREASE
McDonald	\$50,398	\$3,120	\$53,518	6.2%
Patterson	\$64,104	\$9,486	\$73,500	14.8%
Bygden	\$64,000	\$2,176	\$66,176	3.4%
Wise	\$57,998	\$2,000	\$59,998	3.4%
Coffman	\$57,998	\$2,000	\$59,998	3.4%
Heltsley	\$54,808	\$2,080	\$56,888	3.8%

There be no further business to come before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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Gerald Lucas, Chairman

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Julia G. Patterson,  
Board Secretary