

MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, February 17, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan, was held at the office in Ripley, Michigan on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Gene Londo Vice Chairman
Pete Torola Member
Kevin P. Harju County Engineer
John Cima Assistant Engineer
Lori Budweg Secretary
Roy Britz County Commissioner

GUESTS: Tim Gasperich – Calumet Twp., Lynn Gierke – Chassell Twp.

The meeting was called to order by the vice-chairman, Gene Londo at 1:30 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve payment of bills and payrolls in the amount of \$952,278.15, covered by AP vouchers #24/25-31, #24/25-33, #24/25-34, and #24/25-36, payroll vouchers #24/25-32 and #24/25-35 and to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2025 monthly meeting. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Correspondence was read and discussed.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to adopt the resolution and authorize Kevin Harju and/or William Siler to sign the contract for MDOT Job # 221275CON. (see attached) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve and adopt the updated Road Abandonment Petition as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve the Earned Sick Time Act Policy as presented, pending any changes before the February 21, 2025 start date. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve the FY 2024 Act 51 Report as presented and authorize the CEO and Chairman to sign it. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to authorize Kevin Harju to advertise as needed to fill a heavy equipment operator position, due to Matt Pennala quitting. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Torola, to authorize Kevin Harju to apply for a MDOT Safety Project for the fiscal year 2027, the project is undetermined at this time. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to pass a resolution authorizing Kevin Harju to submit an application for the replacement of the Bootjack Road Bridge over the Traprock River. (See attachment) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to pass resolutions and authorize Kevin Harju to enter into contracts, to purchase Federal Aid Funds, with Baraga County Road Commission, Dickinson County Road Commission, Keweenaw County Road Commission and Ontonagon County Road Commission for fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029. Contracts will be for one year at a time with each county to verify the road commission has the available funds. (see attached) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Torola and supported by Mr. Londo, to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m., there being no further business. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Torola, supported by Mr. Londo, that the following resolution be unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Road Commissioners should enter into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the purpose of fixing the rights and obligations of the parties in agreeing to the following:

Control Section:	STL 31000
Job Number:	221275CON
Project:	25A0328
CFDA No.:	20.205 (Highway Research Planning & Construction)
Contract No.:	25-5071

Hot mix asphalt base crushing, shaping and paving along Tapiola Road from Askel Road northerly approximately 2.02 miles; including culvert replacement, aggregate base, shoulders, permanent signing and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairman, Willim H. Siler, and/or engineer, Kevin P. Harju, be authorized to sign said agreements, proposals and/or construction contracts for the above project.

AYES: Londo, Torola
NAYS: None

Motion Carried.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan held on the 17th of February, 2025.

Lori Budweg, Secretary

RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Torola, supported by Mr. Londo, to authorize Kevin P. Harju to submit an application seeking participation in the rehabilitation of the Bootjack Road Bridge over the Traprock River. The application has been reviewed, and is actively seeking participation in the rehabilitation of Structure Number 3420, and is committing the necessary local funds for design and construction engineering in addition to the five percent funding match for the construction phase of the project.

AYES: Torola, Londo

NAYS: None

Motion Carried.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan, held on the 17th day of February 2025.

Lori Budweg, Secretary

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, county road agencies may transfer federal highway aid available to them to other county road agencies for certain purposes subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Transportation (“MDOT”) and Federal Highway Administrative (“FHWA”). 23 U.S.C. 126; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Houghton (“Houghton”) has determined that it is in its best interest to purchase available federal aid funds in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to enable the most efficient use of dollars and cost-effective performance of improvements to its county road system; and

WHEREAS, Houghton has identified the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Baraga (“Baraga”) as a county road agency it is interested in purchasing the federal aid from; and

WHEREAS, Houghton would agree to set the rate of exchange at \$0.80 of non-federal transportation funds for each \$1.00 of STP funds; and

WHEREAS, Houghton desires to purchase an estimated \$550,000.00 of STP funds available in fiscal year 2026 in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to Baraga.

WHEREAS, county road agencies in Michigan are authorized to enter into voluntary exchange agreements with other local road agencies for the purpose of exchanging federal aid funds with state transportation dollars pursuant to Section 402 of Public Act 252 of 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Houghton, by adoption of this resolution, may proceed and develop an agreement with Baraga that would allow for said exchange to occur.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Road Commissioners for the County of Houghton, Michigan, under date of February 17, 2025.

Lori Budweg, Secretary of the Board

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, county road agencies may transfer federal highway aid available to them to other county road agencies for certain purposes subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Transportation (“MDOT”) and Federal Highway Administrative (“FHWA”). 23 U.S.C. 126; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Houghton (“Houghton”) has determined that it is in its best interest to purchase available federal aid funds in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to enable the most efficient use of dollars and cost-effective performance of improvements to its county road system; and

WHEREAS, Houghton has identified the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Dickinson (“Dickinson”) as a county road agency it is interested in purchasing the federal aid from; and

WHEREAS, Houghton would agree to set the rate of exchange at \$0.80 of non-federal transportation funds for each \$1.00 of STP funds; and

WHEREAS, Houghton desires to purchase an estimated \$300,000.00 of STP funds available in fiscal year 2026 in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to Dickinson.

WHEREAS, county road agencies in Michigan are authorized to enter into voluntary exchange agreements with other local road agencies for the purpose of exchanging federal aid funds with state transportation dollars pursuant to Section 402 of Public Act 252 of 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Houghton, by adoption of this resolution, may proceed and develop an agreement with Dickinson that would allow for said exchange to occur.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Road Commissioners for the County of Houghton, Michigan, under date of February 17, 2025

Lori Budweg, Secretary of the Board

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, county road agencies may transfer federal highway aid available to them to other county road agencies for certain purposes subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Transportation (“MDOT”) and Federal Highway Administrative (“FHWA”). 23 U.S.C. 126; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Houghton (“Houghton”) has determined that it is in its best interest to purchase available federal aid funds in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to enable the most efficient use of dollars and cost-effective performance of improvements to its county road system; and

WHEREAS, Houghton has identified the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Keweenaw (“Keweenaw”) as a county road agency it is interested in purchasing the federal aid from; and

WHEREAS, Houghton would agree to set the rate of exchange at \$0.80 of non-federal transportation funds for each \$1.00 of STP funds; and

WHEREAS, Houghton desires to purchase an estimated \$297,000.00 of STP funds available in fiscal year 2026 in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to Keweenaw.

WHEREAS, county road agencies in Michigan are authorized to enter into voluntary exchange agreements with other local road agencies for the purpose of exchanging federal aid funds with state transportation dollars pursuant to Section 402 of Public Act 252 of 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Houghton, by adoption of this resolution, may proceed and develop an agreement with Keweenaw that would allow for said exchange to occur.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Road Commissioners for the County of Houghton, Michigan, under date of February 17, 2025

Lori Budweg, Secretary of the Board

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, county road agencies may transfer federal highway aid available to them to other county road agencies for certain purposes subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Transportation (“MDOT”) and Federal Highway Administrative (“FHWA”). 23 U.S.C. 126; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Houghton (“Houghton”) has determined that it is in its best interest to purchase available federal aid funds in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to enable the most efficient use of dollars and cost-effective performance of improvements to its county road system; and

WHEREAS, Houghton has identified the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Ontonagon (“Ontonagon”) as a county road agency it is interested in purchasing the federal aid from; and

WHEREAS, Houghton would agree to set the rate of exchange at \$0.80 of non-federal transportation funds for each \$1.00 of STP funds; and

WHEREAS, Houghton desires to purchase an estimated \$680,000.00 of STP funds available in fiscal year 2026 in exchange for non-federal transportation dollars to Ontonagon.

WHEREAS, county road agencies in Michigan are authorized to enter into voluntary exchange agreements with other local road agencies for the purpose of exchanging federal aid funds with state transportation dollars pursuant to Section 402 of Public Act 252 of 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Houghton, by adoption of this resolution, may proceed and develop an agreement with Ontonagon that would allow for said exchange to occur.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Road Commissioners for the County of Houghton, Michigan, under date of February 17, 2025

Lori Budweg, Secretary of the Board