

**MINUTES  
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN**

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in regular session at the office in Harbor Springs, July 26, 2021. Frank Zulski, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Commissioners Present:**

Frank Zulski – Chairman      Wade Williams – Vice Chairman      Mark Hoffman – Member

**Staff Present:**

Brian Gutowski - Engineer/Manager      James Godzik – Permit/CADD Technician  
Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Board Clerk      Shawn Beckman – Project Supervisor

**Guests Present:**

Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Twp. Supervisor      Toni Drier – Emmet County Commissioner  
Gordon & Edith Kruskie – Readmond Twp.      Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Twp. Supervisor  
Alice Conrad – Springvale Twp. Resident      James Sivrais – Carp Lake Township Resident  
Deb and Jerry Root, Beckon Road      David White – Emmet County Commissioner

**Guests Present via Zoom:**

Thomas Miller – Trailsend Bay Property Assoc.      Jim Bartlett – West Traverse Twp. Supervisor  
Paul Schemanski – Resort Twp. Trustee      Michael Reaves – Emmet County Administrator  
Fred Levine      Stephen Keller – Cross Village Twp. Supervisor  
Sarah Krupa – Readmond Township Clerk      Sandy Planisek – Mackinaw News

**MINUTES:** It was moved by Williams, seconded by Zulski, to approve the regular session minutes of July 8, 2021.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

Voucher No. 2129 for Accounts Payable checks 48278 through 48324, in the amount of \$852,262.52 was presented for approval. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

**PAYROLL:**

Voucher No. 2130 for Payroll No. 15, checks 56763 through 56789 and direct deposit, in the amount of \$93,999.11, was presented for approval. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- a. Alice Conrad – Inquired on the status of Banwell Road. Gutowski gave a detailed update and stated it should be open by end of this week.
- b. Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor – His Board is asking for a response to a No Passing Zone request on Pleasantview Road at Hathaway. Gutowski responded we rely on painting contractor to layout zones as they have engineers to make the decision; we are adding additional signs notifying the public that traffic does not stop. Dohm thought Gutowski was going to inquire with higher up and Gutowski responded he did and the result is to rely on painting contractor. Dohm inquired as to who is running the roads; painting contractor or road commission? There was much discussion on who makes the decision and liability; Zulski and Hoffman would like to inquire further on this issue for liability and safety. Zulski discussed why he believes there is a need for a No Passing Zone and this topic will be on agenda at the next meeting. Kruskie also commented he has observed passing on the right and something needs to be done to improve safety at this intersection.
- c. Fred Levine – Commented on the street name signs and fading; inquired about who funds replacement signs. Gutowski explained the county funded the purchase of signs and posts to get street numbers on signs; he also gave a history of agency funding. Signs are really beginning to fade and Gutowski planned to bring this issue to the Board in October and is hoping the county would be able to participate in replacing street signs. Zulski stated they are waiting on better information for replacement of the loss of funds due to Covid before decisions are made on how to budget.
- d. James Sivrais – Discussed Munger Road Bridge installation and erosion on south side of road and east side of bridge. He has asked several times with no resolution for 80-90% of road run-off going on his property to be addressed. He also discussed steel items under the surface of road aprons and at the surface which had to be removed and replaced with other materials which caused the grade to lose its integrity. Sivrais is also interested in when he will receive dust control. The last time the truck grader went through, the road was taken down two inches creating a berm. He does not want excess runoff to go on his property and was told the road would be crowned so water would be equally distributed and that is not happening. Zulski and Gutowski responded that Godzik will go out and check the grade at this location.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- a. 8:15 a.m.: Jerry Root, 5759 Beckon Road – appeal of denied driveway permit. He presented video to the Board of the proposed driveway that goes to his barn. Godzik provided a map showing site distance. There was much discussion and Zulski addressed where the driveway should go for the best situation to reduce liability and meet required site distance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Hoffman, to vote for the CRASIF Board of Trustee candidates as follows:

Northern Region: Jesse Campbell

Northern Region: Lisa Kleeman

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Hoffman, to vote for the CRASIF Board of Trustee candidates as follows:

Upper Peninsula Region: Bobbie Livermore

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to vote for the CRASIF Board of Trustee candidates as follows:

Two Year At Large Position: Ken Hulka

One Year At Large Position: Darrell Cass

One Year At Large Position: Russell Williams

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Notice of the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions Annual Conference to be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, September 15-17, 2021. It was moved by Hoffman, seconded by Zulski, to move the 09/17/21 Board meeting to 9/20/21.



Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b. Notice of the Straits Area Council to be held at Audie's in Mackinaw City, August 3, 2021. Zulski and Hoffman will plan to attend.

**ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT:** Gutowski reported the following:

- MCRCSIP Meeting that was held last week resulted in a total refund to the members in the amount of \$15 million which will be \$61,440 for us.
- Lakeshore Drive – Representative Jack Bergman's office called and this road project made the bill for the House to be voted on this week.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** Beckman gave an update on the following projects:

- Hedrick and Catob - overlays are complete, shoulder work should take place this week.
- Eppler Road – placing aggregate base and possibly paving this week.
- Mindel Road – finished graded and expected to pave this week.
- Rustic Road – undercutting and driveway culverts are done; grade work and plan on pulverizing the rest of Rustic Road and the Bellmer Road project this weekend.
- Banwell Road – pulverizing is an issue but should get done this week.

**PERMIT/CAD TECHNICIAN'S REPORT:** Godzik reported on the following:

- Logging association meeting is planned for tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. and Zulski plans to attend to represent the Board.
- Meeting with Dennis Keiser and Mr. Wilhelm this morning, along with Gutowski.

**EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Genson reported on short crews due to vacations. Wedging on the north end is using most of the crew.

**ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT:** None.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Kleeman distributed MTF information for June. There is some indication there are funds available to cover MTF revenue that was lost during 2020 due to Covid through RTF; these funds are estimated to be about \$446,000. Levering truck driver position applications are due July 28, at 4:00 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT:** Commissioner Zulski commented the crew and new paver are doing an amazing job; tremendous. He would like to see any additional funding go to this as it is saving a huge amount on cold patch and time. This will be addressed during our work session. Elder Road was not pre-prepped whereas on Van Road, it was pre-patched and it made for a smoother ride. Zulski stated we should foot the bill to pre-patch with cold patch before wedging on these types of projects. If a township comes up with funding for asphalt,

the agency will pay for cold patch before paving. The crew needs to know we appreciate it. Gutowski mentioned a skim patch was completed with the paver on Van Road.

Zulski also asked for the costs to cover the recent vandalism on signs be recouped through the court system. Kleeman will follow up on this with Granger to obtain a police report and attempt recovery of the costs.

Zulski talked with Representative Damoose about revisiting Zoom participation by board members and having them count for a quorum and voting. He asked County Commissioner's Toni Drier and David White to also contact Representative Damoose about this. Zulski stated technology allows qualified and informed people to participate as Board members. This also needs to be discussed at the Straits Area Council meeting so CRA can help with this issue.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- a. Gordon Kruskie, Readmond Township Trustee – Thanked Gutowski for attending the meeting at the Redmond Township Hall. He also commented the crew did a tremendous job Van Road and thanked the Board for handling the Root appeal well.
- b. Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor – Referenced minutes from the last meeting that listed a proposed policy on failed roads; Gutowski stated there will be several meetings before this policy is complete. Hoffman wants time to look at it before it comes a policy as he is questioning if staffing is going to be an issue. Dohm questioned if the policy is referring to primary or secondary roads. Gutowski stated it primarily targets smaller townships for secondary roads but it could be for primary roads. Beach Road was brought up by Dohm as being rated a 3 which is now closer to a 1. Gutowski commented on the history and intent of the millage; when townships are caught up on local roads, they could spend millage money on primary roads. Zulski would like to catch up on improving hills and curves first; really try to get primary roads fixed.
- c. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor – Discussed the Mindell Road project and the township paid for outside engineering on this project. He specifically referenced two pumps/sumps on east side of road and there are no ditches on side of road and no place for the water to go. It is going to be a maintenance nightmare and was not on the original engineering plan. He also commented the road is chatterly and needs final grading before paving. One of the lanes is going to get broken down with trucks traveling up the hill during the paving process. Beckman responded there is 2,300-2,500 feet of tip up curbs which is going to carry a lot of water and discussed filling the sumps with sand for water drainage. There was further discussion for options to handle the water. Keiser stated engineering should have planned for a cross culvert and Beckman needs to go out to the site and advise because he feels it will be an issue in the future and a maintenance nightmare. Zulski stated to check and be sure if a culvert is a better option and delay the project until Beckman determines how the water should be handled.

Commissioner Zulski adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

*Lisa Kleeman*

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Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

*08-09-21*

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Date