

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in special session at the Levering building on October 3, 2023, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Carp Lake, Bliss, and Readmond Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski, Chairman

Mark Hoffman, Member

Commissioners Absent:

Wade Williams, Vice Chairman

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager

Travis Horrocks – Engineer Technician

Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director

Ed Zmikly – Road Foreman

Guests Present:

Gordon Kruskie

Carp Lake Township Officials:

Supervisor – Paul Teike

Trustee – John Sonnenberg

Trustee – Tina Ward

Bliss Township Officials:

Supervisor – Phil Lechowicz

Readmond Township Officials:

Supervisor – Lisa Fineout

Clerk – Sarah Krupa

Trustee – Josh Lounsbury

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. Carp Lake Township officials were welcomed at 6:01 p.m. with introductions of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Shank discussed the annual road report he provides to the township and inquired if they would like to be more involved in developing the five-year plan that is included or would they prefer this be discontinued. Shank stated the five-year plan can be misleading to the public for expectations and would like to remove it from the road commission's website. Teike stated he does not use this plan.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy but are good value for the dollar.

- c. Review of 2023 Projects - Wheeling Road ultra-thin turned out good and came in under budget. Sonnenberg commented that because projects came in lower this year, he is already planning what he can do for next year. Asphalt is expected to increase about 5% next year but Shank believes that early project planning and bidding can bring in better prices.
- d. 2024 Planned Projects – Sonnenberg would like to chipseal Elder Road if it is available. Shank discussed the chipseal plan for next year; 20 miles is the minimum requirement for a contractor. Horrocks quoted an estimate on a single chipseal with a fog seal at around \$35,000 per mile, a double chipseal may be available at this price depending on where bids come in. Sonnenberg has two spots for asphalt quotes as well as placing afton stone on Cook and Highland Road as well as Pachy corner. Hiar Road and Keiser Road are his two worst spots right now. There was discussion on installing geogrid or a 4" gravel lift. Shank will put together some estimates.
- e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Dust control schedule was difficult this year. Sonnenberg requested to have it completed at least by July 4. Teike stated he usually liked to schedule it for June 1-10. Shank gave them the option of a more expensive product that may be more readily available. Teike stated if it could be placed earlier if they opted for the more expensive brine and if the product lasts longer, it may be worth it. There was discussion on EGLE's current involvement in salt and chloride use on the roads.
 - ii. Teike stated the shoulders have trenches and this is unsafe, and the pavement does last as long; he brings it up every year at this meeting. Schmalzried Road, Old 31, and Pleasantview Road have big drops and the pavement is breaking up along the edge. He would like to see more maintenance done and commented that the township has lots of gravel available.
 - iii. Teike inquired on who owns the end of DeKruif Road at the lake as he is receiving complaints. This area needs to be brushed, ditched, and gravel added. Shank will check into this.
- f. Other Topics – Zulski reminded them to let us know about any dangerous trees that need to be removed.

Carp Lake Township officials left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

- 4. Bliss Township officials were welcomed at 6:47 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Shank discussed the annual road report he provides to the township and inquired if they would like to be more involved in developing the five-year plan that is included or would they prefer this be discontinued. Shank stated the five-year plan can be misleading to the public for expectations and would like to remove it from the road commission's website. Lechowicz stated he does not use it.
 - a. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy

but are good value for the dollar. Bliss Township usually only does wedging projects, so this doesn't impact them as much.

- b. Review of 2023 Projects – Shank stated his appreciation for Bliss Township wedging Pleasantview Road. Zulski inquired if Bliss Township was able to get the \$50,000 in ARPA funds from the county and Lechowicz stated it has been difficult and they don't have it yet but are still working on it.
- c. 2024 Planned Projects – Wedging on Garber Road may be an option and spots on Pleasantview Road at Garber Hill and Munger Road to Gill Road. Shank inquired if they are interested in a chipseal project and Lechowicz stated not at this time.
- d. Maintenance Topics – Lechowicz stated dust control was kind of a fiasco this year and he believes wedging solves a lot of maintenance problems.
- e. Other Topics – Lechowicz discussed Cross Village Township changing the name of Wycamp Road to Spirit Lake Road and he inquired about changing the name on the portion that is in Bliss Township but there may be an impact on a business located on this road. Shank suggested Lechowicz talk with the business owner first and let him know if the township is interested in a name change.

Bliss Township officials left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

5. Readmond Township officials were welcomed at 7:03 p.m. with introduction of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Shank discussed the annual road report he provides to the township and inquired if they would like to be more involved in developing the five-year plan that is included or would they prefer this be discontinued. Shank stated the five-year plan can be misleading to the public for expectations and would like to remove it from the road commission's website. Fineout agreed with removing this as it is a hypothetical wish list.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy but are good value for the dollar.
 - c. Review of 2023 Projects – There was no review of 2023 projects.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Kruskie discussed previous year plans for Island View Road and Gully Road. He discussed the lack of guardrails in this area and the need for a culvert replacement; this project has been on the back burner for a while. Zulski advised Kruskie to get it on the township's agenda for discussion.
 - ii. Krupa stated they are considering proposing a road millage for their township. Shank stated he could help them develop a road plan to help with the passage of a millage.
 - iii. Fineout and Krupa both discussed getting an estimate for repair of Gully Road. Shank discussed a 4-6" gravel surface and minor drainage improvement project. There are no plans to pave this road in the next 5-10 years, but they would like to see improvements to make it more passable.

- iv. Horrocks inquired of any possible chip seal projects they may have, and Krupa discussed Division Road and Fineout discussed Island View Road from State Road west to M119. Shank will get the township estimates but he is expecting approximately \$35,000 per mile.
- v. Fineout said she is getting phone calls on Vorce Road. This is another project they could get an estimate on for gravel improvement.
- e. Maintenance Topics – None
- f. Other Topics –
 - i. There was more discussion on a road millage and the timeline for getting this accomplished.
 - ii. Horrocks inquired on Lamkin Road and Krupa said they are not getting any complaints. There was some discussion of graveling Lamkin Drive.
 - iii. Kruskie discussed repaving the portion of Lamkin Road that was turned to gravel and stated there may even be donations given to pay from the church parking lot to the park entrance. Shank stated the request could come from the township.
 - iv. Zulski inquired if the township was able to get the ARPA funds from the county and Krupa responded not yet, the county has requested additional reports.

Readmond Township officials left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-13-23

Date