

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 9, 2025, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Bliss, Cross Village, Center, and Readmond Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski, Chairman Wade Williams, Vice-Chairman Jim Kargol, Member

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director
Ed Zmikly – North Road Foreman

Guests Present: None

Bliss Township Officials:

Supervisor – Phil Lechowicz Clerk - Debbie Prout

Cross Village Township Officials:

Trustee - Howard Wood Treasurer – Marie Garrett
Steve Keller - Supervisor

Center Township Officials:

Supervisor – Bill Hutto Treasurer – Patricia Wurn
Trustee – Jane Seidler Deputy Treasurer – Leslie Spierling
Trustee – Judy Van Avery

Readmond Township Officials:

Supervisor – Lisa Fineout

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. Bliss Township officials were welcomed at 6:01 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no discussion.
 - b. Review of 2025 Projects:
 - i. Gill Road wedging
 - ii. Pleasantview Road wedging
 - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
 - i. Seal coat project is planned on primary roads and a list of potential roads was sent to the townships. Would like to put this out for bid in December in order to obtain the best bid price and contractor schedule.

- ii. There was discussion that there will be no wedging completed next year and the township will probably plan to save their funds until the following year.
- d. Maintenance Topics:
 - i. Ice Store cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed. The plan is to cleanup to the tree line.
 - ii. Prout inquired about line painting for the primary roads that were involved with projects. Shank stated they are on the list for next year.
- e. Other Topics:
 - i. New funding was discussed.
 - ii. There is a shovel-ready overlay project designed for Lakeview Road from Sturgeon Bay Trail heading east when funding can be obtained.
 - iii. 2027 Safety Grant has been obtained for guardrail; it includes Sturgeon Bay Drive.
 - iv. Prout stated they have a lot of people asking about Sturgeon Bay Trail. Shank responded it is definitely on the list when the new funding is figured out.

Bliss Township officials left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

- 4. Cross Village Township officials were welcomed at 6:30 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August.
 - b. Review of 2025 Projects: None
 - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
 - i. Seal coat project is planned on primary roads but there are no potential projects in Cross Village Township.
 - ii. The township has not yet discussed projects for 2026.
 - d. Maintenance Topics:
 - i. Spirit Lake Trail needs to be graded.
 - e. Other Topics:
 - i. Ice Store cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed.
 - ii. There will be no wedging completed in 2026.
 - iii. MDOT is chip sealing M119 in 2026.
 - iv. New funding was discussed.
 - v. Keller said signage was discussed at a Blissfest meeting and people are ignoring the stop sign at Division and State Road. Could another stop sign be placed on the other side or a light be added? If Blissfest would like to put up temporary signs, they can get a permit from the road commission to do this. This is also a law enforcement issue.
 - vi. Larks Lake Road and Division Road also needs signage that says “Road Closed” for Blissfest, so trailers don’t go through the area as it is creating a lot of dust.

Cross Village Township officials left the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

5. Center Township officials were welcomed at 7:00 p.m. with introduction of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no discussion.
 - b. Review of 2025 Projects: None
 - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
 - i. Seal coat project is planned on primary roads and a list of potential roads was sent to the townships. Would like to put this out for bid in December in order to obtain the best bid price and contractor schedule.
 - ii. There was discussion on Canby Road and Van Road and the fact there will be no wedging in 2026.
 - d. Maintenance Topics:
 - i. Most of their complaints are springtime potholes.
 - e. Other Topics:
 - i. The road millage for Center Township was not renewed and placed on the ballot, so therefore, they won't be able to place it on the ballot again until 2026 with money to be received in 2027. However, they will look into the county-wide millage that has already been passed.
 - ii. Allocation was explained and how this will help them fund road projects.
 - iii. Ice Store cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed.
 - iv. New funding was discussed.

Center Township officials left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

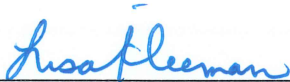
6. Readmond Township officials were welcomed at 7:30 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August.
 - b. Review of 2025 Projects:
 - i. Gully Road culvert project started today. Fineout inquired on the next step in the process for paving this road. Shank discussed the next step is building up a portion of the road, probably in two phases, before it can be paved.
 - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
 - i. Seal coat project is planned on primary roads and a list of potential roads was sent to the townships. Would like to put this out for bid in December in order to obtain the best bid price and contractor schedule.
 - ii. Fineout discussed with VanDivner of Friendship Township graveling Middle Village Road, from Church to M119.
 - d. Maintenance Topics: None
 - e. Other Topics:
 - i. Ice Store cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed.

- ii. There will be no wedging program in 2026.
- iii. New funding was discussed.

Readmond Township officials left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-17-25

Date