

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in special session at the offices in Harbor Springs on October 26, 2022, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from West Traverse, Bliss, and Springvale Township.

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager	Travis Horrocks – Engineer Technician
James Godzik-Permit/CADD Tech	John Gray - Road Foreman
Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director	Ed Zmikly – Road Foreman

Guests Present:

Les Porter	Bob Woods
Bill Clutter	Nancy Dennis

West Traverse Township Officials:

Supervisor – Jim Bartlett	Clerk – Cindy Baiardi
Trustee – Annie Mooradian	Trustee – Dave Green

Bliss Township Officials:

Supervisor – Phil Lechowicz	Clerk – Debbie Prout
Trustee – Ron Cease	

Springvale Township Officials:

Supervisor – Randy McCune	Clerk – Pat McCune
Trustee – Kyle Ulrich	

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. West Traverse Township officials were welcomed and introductions completed.
 - a. Road Report – New format was reviewed. Bartlett inquired why the road ratings went down. Shank responded that some of the treatments that were applied in the past, specifically crack sealing and wedging, do not increase road ratings if there are structural failures in the road; even though these can be effective treatments for prolonging the life of the pavement. Mooradian asked if the township would benefit from increasing pavement depth to 4 inches and Shank said the township would benefit but does not recommend the change because the local roads don't see the amount of commercial traffic primary roads do to justify the increase in cost. Bartlett inquired about specific roads that were rated an 8 last year and this year they are rated a 5. Shank described the edge cracking that is occurring that necessitate the change in

rating. The township is also seeing the change in how crack seal affects the road ratings for the first time in their report this year.

- b. Project submission guidelines and schedule – Shank discussed the new process for getting a list of projects as early as possible for better planning, bid prices, and completion dates. Annual township meetings will be moved to October instead of January in 2023; PASER ratings will be available earlier also.
- c. Review of 2022 projects – no discussion.
- d. 2023 Planned Projects – Bartlett discussed a water main project on Cemetery Road and Benchmark Engineering's proposal for paving half the road but the road commission prefers paving the entire road. Shank discussed permitting for this project and requiring a set of plans from Benchmark. The latest estimate is this project will use all of the township's allocation.
- e. Maintenance concerns:
 - Hoffman mentioned Heynig Road and a wash out issue near the top of the hill, he has pictures.
 - Bartlett mentioned a very large tree on the north side of Lake Street, in between Windward Street and just east of the township barn; west side of Windward Street.
 - Mooradian mentioned chunks out of the side of Franklin Street.
 - Bartlett inquired about changes to the snowplow policy this coming year. Zuluski stated not at this time but the more rural areas may see reduced plowing depending on fuel prices; nothing that will create dangerous conditions.
 - Baiardi stated they are assessing .5 mils. not .7 mils.
 - Baiardi inquired when M119 will be opened. She is concerned about a left turn on to Lake Road and drivers backing out during the election. Maybe temporary cones or some kind of signage would make it safer; Shank said they will come up with something.
- f. Other topics:
 - Zuluski stated that Shank plans an aggressive maintenance program of removing berms and brush, opening the roads for air, sunlight, and drainage beginning next May.
 - Zuluski discussed plans for increasing asphalt depth on primary road projects to 4 inches to gain road longevity and reduce maintenance.
 - Mooradian thanked the road commission for moving the meetings earlier as well as the bid process being moved forward.

West Traverse Township officials left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

4. Bliss Township officials were welcomed at 6:37 p.m. with introductions of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – New format was reviewed. Ratings were significantly reduced due to the amount of wedging that has been done. While the wedging is in pretty fair shape, the center of the road is fatigued out. There was discussion on wedging to the center of the road in the future with the use of our new machine. Shank and Zuluski encouraged the township to get on the wedging list as soon as possible.
 - b. Project submission guidelines and schedule – New timeline was distributed with the goal being to get a better inspection of the proposed project before snow, getting lower prices through

earlier bid letting, and having earlier completion dates. October 1 is the optimum date for proposed projects for the next year. Paser ratings will be distributed earlier and annual township meetings will now be held in October instead of January.

- c. Review of 2022 projects – There was no discussion.
- d. 2023 Planned Projects: Lechowicz discussed Pleasantview Road south of Garber, just past Cassidy Road. Pleasantview Road gets so much traffic and the holes are so terrible and they stay there for weeks. You have to drive over the centerline over the hill or run in the ditch; someone is going to get hurt. Zulski inquired if it is both lanes and Lechowicz confirmed there is not lane to drive that is safe. Shank will send an estimate on this section.
- e. Maintenance concerns:
 - Zulski stated brush cutting and berm removal will be aggressively targeted during the next year beginning in May.
 - Lechowicz stated he is just trying to get the roads passable and never used to spend money on primary roads but he believes someone is going to get hurt.
 - Cease discussed removing dead trees that fall on the road; he was advised to call 911 as the most effective method for our foreman to be notified about a tree.
- f. Other topics:
 - Zulski stated primary roads will be paved to a depth of 4" in the future; it adds longevity to the road. There will also be more in-house crack sealing done in the future.
 - Shank discussed covering some of the wedged roads in 2024 with sealcoat.
 - Prout discussed Bliss Township putting money into repairing primary roads last year and that is why the local road ratings went down. When will the road commission be putting money into roads that aren't considered Bliss's responsibility? Shank responded there is a grant on Lake Shore Drive from Cross Village to Sturgeon Bay Trail in 2023 or 2024; this will be a crush and shape/repave. Lechowicz asked what he plans to do about the rest of Sturgeon Bay Trail and Lakeview? Hoffman suggested making the road gravel but Lechowicz stated a bad asphalt road is better than a good gravel road. Shank will take a look at wedging and other options. Lechowicz stated if the township is putting money into primary roads, he would appreciate the road commission adding money on to it. Hoffman explained the plan to have some funds to do this, but the agency was not able to. Kleeman discussed the past couple of year's MTF funding due to covid. There was discussion on traffic volume, vehicle mileage, and other factors as to why MTF is down.
 - Cease inquired and there was discussion on the cost and performance on the cold-in-place recycling project on Pleasantview Road north of Stutsmanville Road.
 - Zulski discussed tough economic times that are coming the next 3-4 years and also the impact of electric vehicles. Kleeman discussed ARPA funds and the loss of general fund revenue.

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

5. Springvale Township officials were welcomed at 7:22 p.m. with introduction of attendees.

- a. Road Report – New format was reviewed. Shank discussed lower road ratings that occurred partly due to using difference methods for road ratings and treatments that were done in the past. By following strict accordance with the Transportation Asset Management Council's guidance to PASER ratings, we are able to have uniform data throughout the state.
- b. Project submission guidelines and schedule – New timeline was distributed with the plan being improved estimates in the fall, better pricing on early bids, and earlier completion dates. PASER ratings will be available earlier in the year with the annual township meetings occurring in early October.
- c. Review of 2022 projects – Stanley Court and Trails End Road projects are just about complete. Clutter discussed the current project on Trails End Road and the rutting and holes due to more traffic than occurred in the past; he stated the road is no better than before the project. Horrocks discussed what happens when a project is done late in the year when there is a lot of moisture in the gravel and roadbed soils are disturbed; he reviewed the material specifications and guarantees the road will dry out very well when it has a chance. Reducing traffic is key and we can do some maintenance as soon as the weather cooperates a little. Clutter asked what could be done about the edges, they seem super soft with huge drop off transitions. Horrocks will check it out tomorrow to make sure they are taken care of. Dennis inquired about the same issues and Horrocks assured her by grading the road it will be a nice, smooth road. She also asked that a culvert on the northwest corner be checked out that was covered up and Horrocks mentioned it was tied into a drain underground.
- d. 2023 Planned projects:
 - Supervisor McCune discussed Roy Road and what could be done about erosion. Shank discussed getting the hill paved is the best option and he is limited right now on options that don't cause more issues with ditches and culverts. He is proposing splitting the project into two phases. Porter also discussed the drainage and topography issues especially on the east side. He inquired about the possible timeline for paving. Shank stated he would like to get the bids out early in 2023 with an August completed date. Woods asked about the State land at the end of the road and would they help out; it was the consensus they would not. McCune discussed the width of the road and the cul de sac with regards to turning for buses and trailers especially when people are parking cars in the area. Shank stated deeded property or release of right of way would need to be obtained to enlarge the turnaround. McCune stated this has been discussed three time and not paved; he would like to be sure it gets done. There is a board meeting on November 9 and Shank will get an estimate on both phases to them by this time. Zulski suggested they talk with the DNR for some funds and see if they could participate in a turnaround project; he discussed a turnaround project done on East Stutsmanville Road they could look at as an example.
- e. Maintenance concerns:
 - McCune discussed Graham Road; working on hundred-yard sections. Shank is still deciding what to do on an estimate for this request.

- Ulrich discussed Wildwood Road continues to degrade at the peak. The corner was a safety concern and let loose this spring. He also has neighbors that tow boats that have almost lost their boats by bouncing off pitted edges. He feels it is beginning to be a safety concern.
- Shank discussed spots on Wildwood, Ellsworth and Maxwell Roads that are issues also. McCune stated they would be willing to partner with the road commission on some of these roads.
- McCune thanked them for helping get the project on Camp Petosega Road. Ulrich discussed these roads are the only way to get around the lakes out in that area.
- Hoffman discussed reduced revenue due to gas prices and covid and the Board is looking for a way to get projects done. He stated he has been pushing for two years to get south Ellsworth done; we need to at least fix the bad spots this year.

f. Other topics:

- Zulski discussed an aggressive maintenance program of removing brush and berms to deal with shade and water issues. He also discussed an increase in asphalt depth to 4" on primary roads to create a more stable road with less cracking.
- During 2024, there is a plan for another round of county wide chipseal.
- Ulrich asked if there are any cost sharing structures that can be done to get some projects done; Shank and Zulski discussed the asphalt cost sharing policy and other townships have taken advantage of this policy.
- McCune inquired on an in-house paver and Gray discussed, as examples, we have done paving over culverts on Pickerel Lake Road and near Silver Creek.
- McCune inquired about getting speed bumps on Channel Road and Shank stated we don't do them; he should get more enforcement in the area. Shank also addressed why the road commission does not post speeds on gravel roads and liability.
- McCune asked about jurisdiction of gravel roads changing to the township but the Board confirmed the road commission has jurisdiction over them and there is to change.
- Dennis discussed Mud Creek on Pickerel Lake Road where it is really rutty and she feels it is a safety concern during the winter. Gray stated he tried to get this done but came up short with HMA this year; he will have that on the list as soon as he is able.
- Zulski gave information on reduced revenue, lack of ARPA funds to reimburse for lost revenue out of the general fund, the impact of inflation, and possibly cutting township allocation in future years.

6. Public Comment - None

7. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-28-22

Date