

**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, October 15, 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

Commissioners Present via Zoom:

Mark Hoffman – Member

Staff Present:

Brian Gutowski - Engineer/Manager

James Godzik – Permit/CADD Technician

Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Board Clerk

Robert Genson – Equipment Superintendent

Shawn Beckman - Project Manager

Guests Present:

Toni Drier – Emmet County Commissioner

David White – Emmet County Commissioner

Alyce Conrad – Springvale Township

Gordon & Edith Kruskie – Readmond Twp.

Judy Conrad – Maple River Township

Art Massey – Maple River Township

Rich Conrad – Maple River Township

Joyce Partyka – Maple River Township

Joe Partyka – Maple River Township

Phil Deloria – Maple River Township

John Spears – Maple River Township

Niki Spears – Maple River Township

John Still – Maple River Township

Guests Present via Zoom:

Paul Schemanski – Resort Township Trustee

Tori Thompson – ECRC

Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Twp Supervisor

Michelle Main - ECRC

MINUTES: It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to approve the regular session minutes of October 1, 2021.

Ayes: Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Vouchers No. 2141A and 2141B for Accounts Payable checks 48533 through 48599, in the amount of \$1,208,901.92 were presented for approval. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Zulski, to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL:

Voucher No. 2142 for Payroll No. 21, checks 56924 through 56951 and direct deposit, in the amount of \$98,621.34, was presented for approval. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Lamkin Road and Natural Beauty Road Law – Gutowski gave a detailed history of this road since 1999 as the residents have been split whether to pave the road or not. He also gave highlights of the Natural Beauty Road Law outlining procedures and requirements for changes to be made. Zulski requested Gutowski to respond to Mark Bolitho and Fred Hoffman and bring back to the Board if they have any further request to proceed with paving the road.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Gordon Kruskie, Readmond Township – Hill Road project is almost complete and it is a big improvement for people who travel this route.

APPOINTMENTS:

- a. 8:10 a.m.: Public Hearing – Proposed pulverization of Tower Road from Durkalic Road then east for .60 miles in Maple River Township. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Zulski, to begin the public hearing.

Ayes: Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

The public hearing was advertised in the Petoskey News Review. Written comment was received from Maple River Township Board and verbal comments were offered by the following:

Phil Deloria
Mitch Conrad
John Spears
Arthur Massey
John Still

In summary, residents and others that drive this route are disheartened to see how the road has deteriorated over the years, disappointment in the maintenance, inquired about funds the loggers pay in to, the damage loggers cause, lack of maintenance or maintenance that doesn't last, stated this route is an exceedingly bad safety issue, wedging is not a good solution because of poor road base and rotting stumps, lack of a solution may cause the road to be gone by spring or someone to get injured, motorists are driving on the grass instead of the roadway, adding Afton stone or grindings to the holes to get through winter as a possible solution, discussed the amount to reconstruct the road, discussed bus and plow routes, ditching and culvert clean out as the road is spongy due to water drainage issues, ecological issues regarding road runoff into the streams, and ultimately they wanted to know how the road got in such bad condition.

Gutowski, Zulski, and Williams responded on maintenance priority adjustments as a result of reduced budgets, lack of increase in forest funds even though this has been requested several times to legislators, funding laws that require the township to pay at least 50% of projects, and decrease in staff due to funding. Gutowski offered Maple River Township could choose to have asphalt placed next spring for the cost of asphalt and the road commission would provide labor and equipment. However, this is not a good option due to the poor road base. Pulverization could occur before winter if a contractor can be scheduled. Zulski addressed the history of sealcoating the roads when they didn't put any base under the asphalt and he suggested adding Afton stone before winter as pulverizing before winter may cause more issues. Williams suggested using asphalt grindings instead of gravel for repairing the road this fall. Gutowski answered it is about \$360,000 per mile for reconstruction and this project would cost about \$260,000. It was also discussed at length the damage by logging and the change by the legislators that doesn't require loggers to work with the road commission or obtain a permit. Zulski asked staff to address these repairs before winter.

There were three calls for comments. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Wade Williams, to end the public hearing.

Ayes: Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Request from Road Commission of Oakland County to participate in the Federal-Aid Exchange in 2023, 2024, and 2025 was discussed at \$.80 for each \$1.00. Gutowski stated that CRA is working with MDOT on a Federal-Aid buyout at \$.90/.95 for each \$1.00 and it appears they have a tentative agreement with MDOT. There was discussion on the costs of working with MDOT versus RCOC as well as negotiating with RCOC, but Gutowski would like to wait two weeks to see what the legislature plans to do.

- b. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to consider pulverization of Tower Road in the spring and place Afton stone and/or asphalt grindings before winter.

Roll Call Vote:

Zulski - Yes

Williams - Yes

Hoffman - Yes via Zoom

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Notice of Straits Area Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at Audie's Restaurant in Mackinaw City. Zulski, Hoffman, and Beckman will attend.

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

- Attended Superintendent's Annual Meeting in Manistee and learned Covid relief funds have finally been allocated and road commissions will share \$69 million. Our share is about \$591,000 for the amount of MTF that was lost during 2020.
- Rural 10A Task Force Meeting will be here on Monday, October 25, at 10:00 a.m. to choose federal aid projects for the next four years.
- Winter Operations Conference is October 19-20.
- Tip of the Mitt and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Zoom meetings were held to discuss future projects. LTBBOI has requested Gutowski design a culvert replacement on Lake Shore Drive over Wycamp Creek in 2022 with a timber bridge completed in 2023. Also, Lower Shore Drive at Five Mile Creek will be a concrete box culvert or aluminum arch culvert. Tip of the Mitt has funding in 2022 to replace a culvert on Pickerel Lake Road at Silver Creek and Berger Road over Minnehaha Creek. LTTBOI has responded they have funding for Wilderness Park Drive for 2022.
- Tentative 2022 Board Meeting Schedule was distributed to be addressed at next meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

- Hill Road was paved Saturday, some restoration needs to be completed
- Closing out projects and completing punch lists
- PASER data importing for local roads
- Preparing estimates
- Levering Road designing and lining up projects for next year

PERMIT/CAD TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Godzik reported Reed Road Pit 22A and 23A gravel is made and has passed tests. Wilderness Park Drive replacement poles are staged/placed with a tentative schedule to begin moving poles next week.

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson reported changing equipment over for winter. Crew got a lot of culverts in and are trying to get stuff caught up before winter.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: None.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kleeman reported on the MERS Annual Conference.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Zuluski suggested Maple River consider assessing the full mill instead of the half mill.

Commissioners Williams suggested creating a proposed reconstruction price for Tower Road because of multiple issues with this road. In trying to explain to the residents of Tower Road how the road got in such poor condition, you can look to the increased cost of cold patch and employment. He also suggested ditching could be done to drop the water table to address the spongy road and reconstructing the road in smaller sections if needed to address funding.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked Beckman for getting the cover on the drain at Country Club Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Alyce Conrad, Springvale Township – Have we run out of bridges and culverts to fix affecting her route? Inquired about Maxwell and Ellsworth Road and will it be decided in the January if they are going to be fixed as these are primary roads and they are in bad shape? Tower Road is a scenic route and a bus route and it is unsafe. Tower and North Ayr Roads are ruined by the loggers. There was discussion on options for permitting and funding.
- b. David White, Emmet County Commissioner – Can weighmaster get more aggressive? Gutowski stated they have to be caught being overweight.

Commissioner Zuluski adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.



Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

10-29-21

Date