

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 30, 2020. Chairman Frank Zulski called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski - Chairman Robert Notestine - Vice Chairman Wade Williams - Member

Staff Present:

Brian Gutowski - Engineer/Manager Shawn Beckman – Project Manager
Robert Genson – Equipment Superintendent John Gray – Road Foreman
Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director/Board Clerk James Godzik – Permit/CADD Technician

Guests Present:

James Kargol – Emmet County Commissioner Toni Drier – Emmet County Commissioner
Gordon & Edith Kruskie – Readmond Township Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Township
David Coveyou – Coveyou Farms Alice Conrad – Springvale Township

Guests Present via Zoom:

Roger Moore – Wawatam Township Michael Reaves - Emmet Co. Administrator
Thomas Miller – Wawatam Township Sandy Planisek
Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Township

MINUTES: It was moved by Robert Notestine, seconded by Wade Williams, to approve the regular session minutes of October 16, 2020.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Voucher No. 2043 for Accounts Payable checks 47312 through 47346, in the amount of \$355,355.14 was presented for approval. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Robert Notestine, to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL: Voucher No. 2044 for Payroll No. 22, checks 56180 through 56209 and direct deposit, for regular payroll in the amount of \$97,977.03, was presented for approval. It was moved by Robert Notestine, seconded by Wade Williams, to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Wilderness Park Drive Project Update – Gutowski stated there was a meeting with Attorney Bill Henn, himself, Zulski, and Godzik, and Henn will be drafting a form letter for Godzik to send to each property owner and give them until next year to remove encroachments. Our crew will be cutting trees on 15 feet of each side of the existing road. Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians stated they can allocate about \$300,000 for this project but not until 2022. Wawatam Township is willing to pay \$200,000 and use their allocation to get to \$550,000. The plan is currently to build a 28-foot road. Gutowski also discussed a few encroachments that will be difficult to move, such as two garages and a section of a house. Zulski discussed the opportunity to get other funding, having the entire road rebuilt, and several septic systems that are in the right-of-way.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPOINTMENTS:

- a. 8:15 a.m. David Coveyou of Coveyou Scenic Farms on US 131 and proposed abandonment of Greg Road. He gave a history of the 330-acre farm, detailed property boundaries, as well as discussed future plans. He discussed options for routing the traffic that will be involved and working with Godzik and MDOT. He is petitioning to abandon Greg Road because no use of it allows for safely accessing US 131. He has talked with others involved and they have signed the petition. Road Foreman Gray discussed Greg Road is an extremely dangerous road to maintain in the winter. Gutowski reviewed the requirements for abandoning a road and Commissioner Williams cautioned the ability to ever get access to US 131 in the future if Greg Road is abandoned. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor, discussed the township's status on this subject and his concerns for a turnaround at the end of Cemetery Road. Gutowski stated if he receives the petition for abandonment, he will address questions raised and the Board can vote on the proposed abandonment on November 13. Keiser inquired about the MDOT turnaround and Godzik stated MDOT plans to keep the turnaround. Coveyou would like to see MDOT pave the turnaround and do some minimal maintenance like remove dead trees at the scenic turnaround. He also requested to MDOT if the scenic turnaround is abandoned, the property be absorbed back into Coveyou Farms. Zulski asked for input from the Bear Creek Township Supervisor before the November 13 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Wade Williams, to sign the contract with Wawatam Township for installation of nine culverts on Wilderness Park Drive.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Robert Notestine, to sign the contract with Pleasantview Township for moving the turnaround on Stutsmanville Road, east of Pleasantview Road.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- c. It was moved by Robert Notestine, seconded by Frank Zulski, to adopt a resolution establishing the Engineer-Manager as the authorized signatory for MERS contracts and service credit purchase approvals.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- d. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Wade Williams, to purchase Thanksgiving hams as a safety award for employees due to an excellent safety rating for 2020. The Board expressed sincere thanks to the Safety Director and employees.

Ayes: Notestine, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Notice of New Commissioners Workshop on Monday, February 22, 2021, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Otsego Resort in Gaylord or virtual. All three commissioners decided to attend virtually.

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

- Straits Area Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 3, at 9:00 a.m. at Audie's in Mackinaw City. This meeting will also be available via Zoom.

- Wednesday, November 4, Petoskey Area Transportation Meeting via Zoom. Notestine will plan to attend.
- Off November 4-7
- November 10, Northern Lower Traffic Safety Network Committee Meeting, attending virtually.
- November 11-12 there will be a MCRCSIP Meeting in Lansing
- November 13, Public Hearing for Greg Road
- Sunday, November 8 will begin night patrol

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Beckman reported the following:

- Reed Road is paved and open, and guardrail will be installed in a couple of weeks
- Munger Road Bridge piling is partially placed on the west side as well as backfill and rip rap. The east side will begin next week. It may not be able to be paved yet this year and a decision will be made to open the road or keep closed over the winter.
- Pickerel Lake Road Project is complete and closing out paperwork for the year

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

- Oxcart is working well for Right of Way permits
- Wilderness Park Drive Project - will begin marking trees next week

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson discussed getting ready for winter and looking at new equipment items to prepare for next year's purchases. He has been working with New Holland regarding the mowing tractors. Safety training is currently happening with MCRCSIP.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: Gray reported getting roads in better shape for winter, wrapping up a few projects, patching, and marking routes.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kleeman distributed and reviewed the following documents:

- Cash Report October 30, 2020
- MTF Report for September to be received in November
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for September 30, 2020
- Trial Balance Report for September 30, 2020

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Notestine commented our agency was mentioned in the Conservation Resource Alliance's recent article. He also noticed flooding in Grand Traverse County and asked Foreman Gray about erosion issues in our county. Gray discussed adding 150 ton of stone plus more he will be adding to Beach Drive to continue to address this issue. Gray believes he is making headway on the most critical areas. Notestine expressed his appreciation.

Commissioner Zulski mentioned driving along Beach Drive during the height of the last storm and the water was barely splashing onto the road. Commissioner Williams mentioned the height of the Sturgeon River in Indian River. Gray stated he is currently dealing with Crooked River issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Jim Kargol, Emmet County Commissioner – Abandoning Greg Road and making sure the road is secured very well at end of Greg Road as water issues could carry over to Cemetery Road and you can't access private property to deal with it.
- b. Gordon Kruskie, Readmond Township Supervisor – Culvert on Island View Road worked very well during the last heavy rain and was flowing at maximum capacity. Gutowski mentioned MDOT placed 70 yards of stone near Middle Village Road but they need to do way more.

Commissioner Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.



Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

11-30-20

Date