

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 24, 2022, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Maple River, Wawatam, and Bear Creek Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zuluski, Chairman

Mark Hoffman, Member

Commissioners Absent:

Wade Williams, Vice Chairman

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:

Toni Drier, Emmet County Commissioner

Ricky Geiger

Butch Hergenroeder

Karla Buckmaster

Ken Golding

Maple River Township Officials:

Supervisor – John Eby

Clerk – Tammy Gregory

Treasurer - Nancy Salar

Trustee - Charles Blumke

Trustee - Stanley Wekwert

Wawatam Township Officials:

Supervisor – Roger Moore

Clerk – Meghan Michalak

Trustee – Robert Desy

Trustee – Roy Cole

Bear Creek Township Officials:

Supervisor – Dennis Keiser

Clerk – Emma Radatovich

Trustee – Joe Hoffman

Trustee – Tom Urman

Treasurer – Connie Golding

1. Chairman Zuluski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. Maple River Township officials were welcomed by Shank.
 - a. Road Report – New format was reviewed. Klenk Road was listed as a seasonal road but needs to be revised to a local road.
 - 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 – Maple River and Tower Road wedging projects were discussed.
- d. 2023 Planned Projects – Eby would like to move the project planned for 2024 and include it with 2023 projects; he said to plan for Tower Road and Durkalic Road in 2023. Shank stated he would like to plan chip sealing in 2024 and this would be a good plan over some of the roads that were wedged; Eby agreed. Eby stated they plan about \$100,000 each year for projects plus the allocation. He talked with Bob Wurst, Pleasantview Township Trustee, and they would like to complete chip sealing on N. Ayr Road split 50/50 between both townships.
- e. Maintenance concerns – Zulski stated that Shank plans an aggressive maintenance program of removing berms and brush opening the roads for air, sunlight, and drainage.
- f. Other topics:
 - Zulski inquired of Commissioner Drier regarding ARPA funds committed to the townships. Commissioner Drier is hoping for between \$20,000 to \$50,000 for each township; these funds would require a township match. Emmet County Board of Commissioner minutes on August 18, 2022 reflect how ARPA funds were discussed to be allocated.
 - Butch Hergenroeder brought up East Brutus Road west of US 31 where the shoulders are almost gone. Shank discussed an upcoming BIA project for this road in 2026; plans are currently being reevaluated. Eby stated this road is a maintenance/safety issue; he was following a double gravel train where the train was rocking and it is the same thing with log trucks. Some spots need a temporary fix at least. Shank stated he will reassess this road and the project list to see what can be done.
 - Zulski and Shank discussed plans for increasing asphalt depth on primary road projects to 4 inches to gain road longevity and reducing maintenance.
 - Next year the annual township meetings will be held in early October.

Maple River Township officials left the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

4. Wawatam Township officials were welcomed at 6:40 p.m. with introductions of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – New format was reviewed along with the township’s assessed 1 mil which equates to about \$98,200 available annually. There was some discussion how this is also part of the village of Mackinaw City.
 - 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.
 - c. Review of 2022 projects – Moore stated Wilderness Park Drive from 1st to 2nd Beach turned out very well.
 - d. 2023 Planned Projects – Moore stated they may not plan on a project for 2023 but is thinking about Straits View Drive for 2024. He stated Point Drive and Esther Lane turned out really nice and the same could be done on Straits View Drive. There was inquiry about Cecil Bay Road, but

that is not on the list until 2024 when chip sealing is again planned. Moore also asked about the painting on Wilderness Park Drive from 2nd Beach south and it is almost gone on Trails End. Shank discussed the new paint and how plowing affects the longevity.

e. Maintenance concerns:

- Zulski stated brush cutting and berms will be aggressively worked on during the next few years.
- Desy asked Godzik about a parking lot and moving the French Farm entrance; the township owns the land in this area. Moore stated this area is used frequently during the winter and asked if the road commission could plow this area.
- Desy asked about Headlands Road from the top of the hill by the lighthouse all the way to the water, this was cleared last winter; will it continue this year? Shank stated since this is not a seasonal road, we will continue to plow it. Zmiky stated it was plowed because there was a house near the end of the road. There was discussion of Enbridge purchasing all the houses and the need to plow it.
- Moore stated the road that was built on Wilderness Park Drive from 2nd Beach to Cecil Bay Road is not good; it is up and down and water pools, please don't use this method of construction again. The rest of Wilderness Park Drive turned out really nice.

f. Other topics:

- Moore inquired about all the encroachments on Wilderness Park Drive from 1st to 2nd Beach and Godzik stated this will be aggressively followed up on beginning in the spring of 2023.
- Desy discussed concern about the culvert within the new project on Wilderness Park Drive and drivers going in the creek because trees have been removed. Godzik answered once the lines are painted and grass is planted it may be better. Shank mentioned this may be a guardrail safety grant in the future.
- 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.

Meeting was recessed at 7:04 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

5. Bear Creek Township officials were welcomed at 7:30 p.m. with introduction of attendees.

- a. Road Report – New format was reviewed. Keiser asked if the projects could be highlighted in color on the local road rating list delineating which year they are planned for. He also stated the millage brings in about \$450,000 but the township spends about \$700,000 annually.
- b. Project submission guidelines and schedule – The plan is for 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 – Chip seals on Bellmer, Fletcher, Intertown, and Lintlong Roads and ultra- thin overlays on four roads went well. Trustee Hoffman discussed Intertown Road, just before Howard Road, didn't get fixed before the chipseal; but overall, the chip seal is a wonderful product. Shank stated there is a plan for a county wide chip seal program again in 2024.

d. 2023 Planned projects:

- Shank plans to rebid Atkins Road
- Complete Fochtman Industrial Park Drive estimate with a suggested 4" of asphalt
- Update the Krause Road project estimate
- Division Road from Atkins Road to US 31 will be built with small urban funds. Division to US 31 will be a mill and fill and from Atkins Road to Division will be an overlay. Shank asked if the township would participate in the \$90,000 match.
- Keiser stated Division and Atkins Road intersection needs a three-way stop. Shank commented it needs to be studied in the spring, looking at traffic volumes, but believes this could be done with stop bars and pavement marking changes and discussed a roundabout. Roundabouts improve traffic flow and change traffic accident severity from fatal to side swipes.
- Bellmer Road will be discussed as soon as Shank receives more plans.

e. Maintenance concerns:

- Keiser discussed lane painting and stop bars on local roads; he prefers white lines on the local roads also. Shank stated it will be a line item in the budget next year.
- Keiser mentioned guardrail on Kolinski Road, shoulder drops throughout the township, and berm removal. He stated Gray does a great job and is always responsive.
- Buckmaster mentioned painting on Pickerel Lake Road hill; it is dangerous and wants to know how long it will take to have it done. She specifically asked if it is in the budget to be done every year. Shank discussed recessed painting for 2023 in this area.
- The proposed traffic light was discussed at Pickerel Lake Road and US 31. Keiser stated MDOT told him it would be planned for spring 2023, moved from fall of 2022.
- Buckmaster thanked the road commission for finally getting the spectrum line taken care of but doesn't like being put in the position of having to get this done by several letters, phone calls, and complaints. Just do the job without the complaints and by making people have to constantly come to you about it. Like the guardrail on top of Kolinski Hill; it needs to be addressed, she has been put off for four years. She would like to see the grant request that Gutowski discussed and the reply that was given to the road commission. Shank will follow up with Buckmaster on this request.
- Much discussion ensued regarding utility companies not timely taking care of poles and cables in the right of way and options the road commission has to facilitate completion.

f. Other topics:

- Zulski discussed an aggressive maintenance program by 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.
- Keiser asked for an update on the road signs. Shank stated the county granted funds up to \$80,000 to replace faded signs up to that amount. Keiser stated if there is a shortfall, he wants all the signs to be replaced in his township. There was much discussion on the sign replacement project costs and information submitted to Emmet County from

Gutowski to Commission White. Drier gave a detailed history on the requested information as well as her communication with the townships. It appears there was some miscommunication on the amount that should have been requested as well as the timing of a change to the request so funding to update all the green primary and local road signs was not obtained. Keiser stated they would pay for some of the green signs so that all the signs in Bear Creek Township are new. Drier asked for clarification about a comment at the MTA meeting that the signs were only for primary roads; she reviewed all the discussions and documentation on this topic and nowhere does it state the signs were for primary roads only. The townships will be upset if they will have to pay for local roads. She stated there was some misinformation and the county gave the road commission 100% of what was requested and reviewed the submitted information with Zuluski. Shank stated the county did approve 100% of our request but the request did not cover 100% of the signs; Zuluski confirmed the difference can be handled by the road commission. Drier stated this should be discussed at the township meetings or communication sent out that primary roads only was not mentioned. Buckmaster asked about the signs and guarantees and Shank discussed the current standard and newer materials available. The current signs did last for the warranty time of 10 years as they were installed in 2007 and 2008.

- Trustee Hoffman discussed cable companies, Great Lakes, and Consumers Energy. Throughout the township, he stated there are poles everywhere but the township doesn't have jurisdiction and the road commission needs to work with the utilities to get their poles cleaned up. Shank discussed the laws that allow utilities and our ability to enforce these issues. Godzik discussed Atkins Road and getting the lines moved on these poles. Hoffman asked if it is possible for Godzik to review all the locations and send letters to enforce the cleanup. Urman discussed poles and transfers verses new poles and the fact that Great Lakes Energy can't touch Charter's poles.
- Trustee Hoffman discussed melting last year on Cedar Valley Road; it was like a river with a terrible washout. He asked if we have a plan for the area this year? Shank discussed the freeze thaw pattern and how the weather affects it.
- Trustee Hoffman also asked East Mitchell Road near Alcan about cones that were placed by a washout and how long it took to get gravel on the shoulder. Shank discussed an accident that totaled one of our trucks that was used to work on shoulders. Hoffman also stated East Mitchell Road hasn't been shoulder graveled in three years and the drop off is deep, he also mentioned Greenwood.
- Buckmaster asked again what the remedy is for paint at the bottom of Pickerel Lake Road hill for this year for the safety of everybody. Commissioner Hoffman stated nothing will be done this fall. Buckmaster asked when the budget is done will it include paint for Pickerel Lake Road hill and Shank stated paint will be completed in 2023. She then inquired if it will be the good paint that is ground in and Shank said a portion of that area will be.

- Urman asked about the Krause Road project scope and will it go to the last house; Shank confirmed it did.
- Zulski discussed the lack of \$700,000 funds that was lost and never made up during covid. Weekend plowing on local roads may need to be adjusted this winter due to the struggle with funding.
- Keiser asked about the impact of electric vehicles on funding and Zulski discussed the current information shows electric vehicles are paying 70 cents to every \$1 that a gasoline or diesel user pays.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board



Date