

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 1, 2024, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Carp Lake, McKinley, Readmond, and Wawatam Township.

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager Travis Horrocks – Engineer Technician
Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director

Guests Present:

Harry Hammond

Carp Lake Township Officials:

Supervisor – Paul Teike Trustee – John Sonnenberg

McKinley Township Officials:

Supervisor – Mark Drier Clerk – Alicia Morrow
Treasurer – Elizabeth Readmond Trustee – Lyle Spierling

Readmond Township Officials:

Supervisor – Lisa Fineout Clerk – Sarah Krupa

Wawatam Township Officials:

Supervisor – Roger Moore Clerk – Mehgan Michalak
Trustee – Roy Cole Trustee – Bob Desy

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Roll was called.
3. Carp Lake Township officials were welcomed at 6:01 p.m. with introductions of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no discussion.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township’s budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval.
 - c. Review of 2024 Projects – Elder Road chip seal project turned out well this year.
 - d. 2025 Planned Projects –Specific projects that were discussed, and Sonnenberg and Teike will get budget amounts from their next township meeting are:

- i. Pachy Road – an overlay project.
 - ii. Luesing Road – a wedging project from Hiar Road to Keiser Road.
 - iii. Chip sealing – Shank stated there is none planned at this time, but it depends on township requests. Teike suggested Schmalzried Road.
 - iv. Highland Road would be a good candidate for a 4-5 inch gravel lift.
- e. Maintenance Topics:
- i. Old Schoolhouse Road where a resident would like work done.
 - ii. Using grinding on roads has turned out to provide a good surface.
 - iii. Dust control options were discussed.
- f. Other Topics:
- i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85th percentile if an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50th percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change. DeKruif Road was discussed specifically.
 - ii. Zulski suggested the township may want to send a letter of thanks to their county commissioner and county board regarding the match given to the township the past two years.

Carp Lake Township officials left the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

4. McKinley Township officials were welcomed at 6:23 p.m.
- a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no other discussion.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township’s budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval.
 - c. Review of 2024 Projects – Reed Road was completed yesterday and looks good.
 - d. 2025 Planned Projects – Drier stated they do not have specific plans as of yet, and Readmond stated it will be less than last year. Shank discussed an approximate 10% increase in quarried limestone materials is expected next year. Drier stated they may not do a project in 2025 and save for the next year. He also inquired about the allocation and Kleeman will email him the exact amount. He also inquired about next year’s allocation estimate and Shank confirmed it is expected to be about the same.
 - e. Maintenance Topics:
 - i. Tree removal budget was discussed.
 - ii. Gravel is needed at the end of Ely Road and Reed Road, there are some huge and dangerous holes.

- f. Other Topics:
 - i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85th percentile if an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50th percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change.
 - ii. Zulski suggested the township may want to send a letter of thanks to their county commissioner and county board regarding the match given to the township the past two years. Drier commented the county does not have ARPA funds for the next year.

McKinley Township officials left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Zulski called a recess at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

- 5. Readmond Township officials were welcomed at 6:59 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no discussion.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township’s budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval. He also discussed getting projects out early helps with project savings.
 - c. Review of 2024 Projects – Island View Road seal coat turned out well.
 - d. 2025 Planned Projects –Krupa discussed a road millage will be on the ballot this November and Zulski offered advice with this. Shank discussed overlays and different fixes that may reduce longevity but would get the roads covered and possibly save some money.
 - e. Maintenance Topics – No concerns.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85th percentile if an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50th percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change.
 - ii. Zulski suggested the township may want to send a letter of thanks to their county commissioner and county board regarding the match given to the township the past two years.

- iii. Krupa inquired about what can be done about side by sides on the roads. Shank stated the township can pass an ordinance prohibiting these vehicles, but enforcement will be required.


Readmond Township officials left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

6. Wawatam Township officials were welcomed at 7:14 p.m. with introduction of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Distributed in August. Moore questioned the rating on Straits View Drive as an 8 and Shank stated a seal coat can only be rated an 8 when it is new. Shank also went on to discuss cracking and its impact on ratings. There was some discussion on the job completed on Wilderness Park Drive near second beach.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township’s budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval. He also discussed getting projects out early helps with project savings.
 - c. Review of 2024 Projects – Seal coat project turned out well on Straits View Drive and the cost came in about 20% lower than estimated due to an early bid process.
 - d. 2025 Planned Projects – Shank mentioned a request he received to have a portion of Headlands Road paved at the end near the beach. Moore discussed an overlay on Cecil Bay Road and Trailsend Road.
 - e. Maintenance Topics:
 - i. Cole inquired when road painting is completed and Shank stated this is usually done in June and July. There was further discussion on which roads were painted in 2024.
 - ii. Cole discussed a parking lot near French Farm Road to get vehicles off the road during the winter; Godzik was supposed to be working on an estimate for this. Shank will follow up on this.
 - f. Other Topics -
 - i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85th percentile if an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50th percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change. There was discussion on Wilderness Park Drive and Moore believes traffic is following the 40-mph speed limit. Desy discussed installing a flashing speed sign like they use by the school.
 - ii. Zulski suggested the township may want to send a letter of thanks to their county commissioner and county board regarding the match given to the township the


past two years. Moore stated the county has worked with them very well on the funding process.

Wawatam Township officials left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

- 7. Public Comment: None
- 8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board



Date