

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in special session at the Levering building on January 20, 2023, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Carp Lake, Cross Village, Readmond, and Friendship Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski, 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

Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director

Ed Zmikly – Road Foreman

Guests Present:

Gordon Kruskie

Carp Lake Township Officials: None

Cross Village Township Officials:

Supervisor – Stephen Keller

Clerk – Diane Keller

Readmond Township Officials:

Supervisor – Lisa Fineout

Friendship Township Officials – via Zoom:

Clerk – Janelle Van Divner

Trustee – Marty McGregor

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Roll was called.
3. Carp Lake Township officials did not arrive so the meeting was recessed until 6:30 p.m.
4. Cross Village Township officials were welcomed at 6:34 p.m. with introductions of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Township officials had no questions regarding the new format.
 - b. Project submission guidelines and schedule – New timeline was discussed 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: Lake Shore Drive project in Cross Village was reviewed. Sidewalk names were discussed with possible options for getting them replaced.
- d. 2023 Planned Projects: No projects are currently planned. The federal project on Lake Shore Drive was discussed for 2024 which will also include a bridge project over Wycamp Creek funded by the BIA. The county ARPA funds were discussed and how the road commission could help with the match including the township allocation; there is a July deadline for requesting funds.
- e. Maintenance concerns:
 - Stephen Keller stated Barb Jannis was very happy with the maintenance on Cemetery Road.
- f. Other topics:
 - Diane Keller discussed changing the name of Wycamp Lake Road to Spirit Lake Road. She will get a notice from the township requesting this change to Shank.

Cross Village Township officials left the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

5. Readmond Township officials were welcomed at 7:03 p.m. with introduction of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – There were no questions on the new format.
 - 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, around August, with the annual township meetings occurring in early October.
 - c. Review of 2022 projects: Shank discussed Lamkin Road and dealing with the project failure; the contractor will be involved with repair in the spring. Horrocks discussed the material that was placed to help this road until spring.
 - d. 2023 Planned projects:
 - A few different estimates will be prepared for Lamkin Road. Horrocks listed several items to remember when this project occurs due to the location: detour, construction options, etc.
 - Robinson Road project is planned for 2023 beginning at State Road and going east 2.5 miles; about a half mile past Moose Jaw Road.
 - e. Maintenance concerns: None were discussed.
 - f. Other topics:
 - Fineout inquired what the definition of a natural beauty road is and Shank discussed what a natural beauty road is and the process for this declaration. It basically restricts the road width to 16 feet plus or minus .5 feet and any construction or maintenance cannot destroy the natural vegetation on the edge of the road.
 - Kruskie discussed the recent project on Lamkin Road and the desire to eventually pave a portion of the road.
 - Fineout discussed the estimate that was recently requested for Lamkin Road. Shank stated the estimate was to pave the portion of the road that was previously paved; it did not include the portion that extends to the township line. Other estimates can be created depending on the amount of funds available.

- Zulski discussed the county ARPA funds available to the township as well as the match the road commission can assist with.

Readmond Township officials left the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

6. Friendship Township Officials were welcomed to the meeting via Zoom at 7:28 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – There was no discussion on the new format.
 - 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, around August, with the annual township meetings occurring in early October.
 - c. Review of 2022 projects: Chipseal project on Five Mile Creek Road and Lacount Road project turned out well. Lamkin Road continues to be an issue but it is being monitored very closely with plans to bring the contractor back in the spring for repair. Weather is still a factor and a challenge to working on the road. The material put to the side will be brought back in as soon as it dries up. Friendship Township is withholding payment until the road is fixed.
 - d. 2023 planned projects:
 - Terpening Road from M119 then north was discussed. Does it need to be wedged to prepare for chip sealing? Shank said he needs to inspect the road but the next chipseal program is scheduled for 2024.
 - Beacon Hill Road from Hurd Road north, about 3/10 of a mile, was discussed for bringing it from a seasonal road to a certified road; a plowable standard. Logging has this road in a terrible mess right now. There are now two year-round residents on this portion of the road. Shank stated an estimate will be put together for this.
 - Van Divner inquired about painting roads; will it be centerline only on primary roads? Shank confirmed funding would be for centerline only with a very small amount of fog lines. She is requesting fog lines on Stutsmanville Road and has been requesting this for years. She will need estimates prepared for Stutsmanville Road as well as West Townline and Five Mile Creek Road for both centerline and fog lines.
 - e. Maintenance concerns:
 - They would like more trees taken care of. Zmikly stated the crew just moved up there and then the snow came, they will be returning when weather allows.
 - New road signs will be replaced mid to late summer.
 - Dust control will be the same process as last year. Van Divner inquired if any other townships use chloride versus mineral well brine; Zmikly responded Cross Village Township does.
 - Crack seal will be completed again this year, but the roads have not been chosen yet. Van Divner mentioned Townline Road was on the list last year but it didn't get done.
 - f. Other topics:
 - Van Divner inquired about the flashing sign at Stutsmanville and Pleasantview Road and inquired if this can be installed at Stutsmanville and State Road. Shank will get Van Divner an estimate on this.

- Blinding strips on signs was discussed especially for older drivers. Shank explained this was a safety improvement grant that was obtained; at Van Divner's request, he will check to see if some strips can be removed.
- Van Divner inquired if there are plans for the last portion of Stutsmanville Road that has not been repaired, even a chipseal. Shank will see if it can be a part of the 2024 chipseal project.
- Zulski inquired if the township has any plans for the ARPA funding from the county. They had not heard of it so Shank will send a copy of the letter to Van Divner. Zulski discussed the \$50,000 in funds that are available to the township, how the road commission can help with the required match, and the deadline of July 2023 to request the funds.
- Robinson Road project beginning at State Road and going east 2.5 miles to about a half mile past Moose Jaw Road is planned for 2023. In the next few years, the whole corridor should be completed.
- McGregor stated the M119 tree job was done well and quickly.

Friendship Township officials left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.


7. Public Comment:

- a. Kruskie brought up the safety issue on Gully Road. In the near future we need to correct the issues at the culvert and guardrail in this area before someone is injured. Shank discussed the culvert and grade issues and why it would not be a good candidate for a safety grant.

8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board



Date