

**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, May 27, 2021. Frank Zulski, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Twp. Supervisor Toni Drier – Emmet County Commissioner
Jim Wilhelm Bill McMaster

Guests Present via Zoom:

David White – Emmet County Commissioner Thomas Miller – Trailsend Bay Property Assoc.
Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Twp. Supervisor Sarah Krupa – Readmond Twp. Clerk
Jim Bartlett – West Traverse Twp. Supervisor Ed Kuligowski – Pleasantview Twp. Supervisor
Paul Schemanski – Resort Twp. Trustee U.S. Representative – Jack Bergman
Remy Fortin–Rep. Bergman’s Sen. Leg. Assistant Roger Moore – Wawatam Twp. Supervisor
Michael Reaves – Emmet County Administrator Steven Keller – Cross Village Twp. Supervisor
Al Welsheimer -Bear Creek Fire Department

MINUTES: It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Wade Williams, to approve the regular session minutes of May 17, 2021.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Voucher No. 2121 for Accounts Payable checks 48068 through 48096, in the amount of \$505,075.76 were presented for approval. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Frank Zulski, to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL:

Voucher No. 2122 for Payroll No. 11, checks 56652 through 56679 and direct deposit, in the amount of \$99,969.10, was presented for approval. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Frank Zulski, to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

U.S. Representative Jack Bergman gave a presentation via Zoom. He thanked the road commission and local people who get involved for what they do every day and discussed the parties working together to get stuff done. Bergman stated they have achieved a new milestone in dysfunctionality due to procedures put in place but people are working together even though the media doesn't show it. Today, Congress is supposed to receive a real copy of the President's budget so they can begin to move forward with appropriations. Bergman serves on the Armed Services and Veteran Affairs Committees but has input through his staff and networking on all issues. He then inquired about concerns from those in attendance.

Gutowski inquired about the latest infrastructure proposal passing anytime soon. Bergman said there is a chance, due to only a five-vote difference between the Democrat majority and Republican minority in the House. He is cautiously optimistic on this proposal.

Gutowski inquired about federal aid projects and the regulations that have delayed completion of the application especially the historical approval and environmental process. Bergman stated this conversation is very helpful and when the feds send money to the states, he prefers less strings attached and letting the states get the money out and not deal with federal red tape; bureaucracy consumes resources and gives you no outcome.

Emmet County Administrator Michael Reaves discussed the feds sent funds to Michigan but with all the rules (161 pages in the first set and two more sets are coming) the counties hands are tied on how they can utilize the funds. If Emmet County wants to help fund a road project, the rules have made it difficult to use the funds on an infrastructure project to benefit the residents and visitors in Emmet County. Bergman asked for clarification if the rules were Federal or State. Reaves responded they are federal rules and they are new, interim with more coming, and tie his hands for working with the road commission on funding projects. The county appreciates the funds but they are difficult to spend because of the rules. Bergman and his staff will work with the county on this issue.

Gutowski stated he has been working with Representative Bergman's Senior Legislative Assistant, Remy Fortin, to get a special project funded which is on an illustrative list for federal aid. The project is Lake Shore Drive and he is hoping this project can get this moved up as a priority. Bergman asked if Representative DaMoose and Senator Schmidt are aware and Gutowski responded he has a letter of support from the first and will be talking to the latter today. Bergman felt the three of them could try to get this past the log jam, levels of

government, with a coordinated effort and will keep working on it. Fortin heard back from the appropriations committee and he believes the information he has will be sufficient which just a few more adjustments. He is trying to manage expectations on an earmark request; there is still a long way to go, it is a brand-new process, and no one knows how it will work out.

Bergman inquired if there will be a Harbor Springs 4th of July parade and Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor, responded yes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPOINTMENTS:

- a. 8:30 a.m. Jim Wilhelm was present to discuss a land division request located near 5324 East Mitchell. Wilhelm is in process of purchasing property from Bill McMaster but the purchase is on hold due to driveway site distance requirement restrictions on a land split. He supplied a detailed map with parcels A, B, and C listed along with videos. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding details and options listing site distances, none of which met the requirement of 550 feet.

Godzik stated there is no access available to meet site distance requirements and clarified a driveway could be installed safely on parcel B. Gutowski discussed land division restrictions were put in place to address dangerous driveway requests.

Bill McMaster stated the landowner on parcel A does not want other people to have access to his driveway even though this is the safest place for the driveway.

Commissioner Zulski stated the evidence seen supports there is not a safe site distance for the requested driveway access.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Mark Hoffman, to award the RFP bid for preliminary engineering services for the Douglas Lake Road and E. Robinson Road over the East Branch of the Maple River in McKinley Township to Huron Engineering & Surveying in the amount of \$39,300.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zuluski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Frank Zuluski, to award the RFP bid for preliminary engineering services for the hydraulic study at the Van Creek Crossing of the Alanson to Mackinac MDNR Bike Trail in McKinley Township to Huron Engineering & Surveying in the amount of \$28,070.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- c. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Wade Williams, to vote Rob Laitinen for the MCRCSIP At-Large Director candidate and Tony Casali for the Northern Director candidate.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- d. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Mark Hoffman, to approve the revised Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan with the latest updates.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- e. It was moved by Frank Zulski, seconded by Wade Williams, to add Stutsmanville Road from Pleasantview Road to State Road to the "All Season" road list.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- f. It was moved by Wade Williams, seconded by Frank Zulski, to sign the contract with Rieth-Riley for the Hill Road Resurfacing Project in Readmond Township.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE: None

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

- Asset Management Training, Tuesday, June 1, regarding compliance.
- Lakeshore Drive Project – continue to work with U.S. Representative Jack Bergman. Other roads with lower PASER ratings were discussed as better options for wedging in lieu of Lakeshore Drive, especially Pleasantview Road if funds allow.
- Work Session will be held as part of the June 10 board meeting.
- MDOT's five-year priority list and map for Emmet County was discussed as follows:
 - 2021 projects – Crack sealing M119 and a chip seal on US31 from Gill Road to I75

- 2022 Projects – I75 reconstruct from M108 to Mackinac Bridge and a reconstruct of Milton Road as a detour route in preparation for 2023 US31 project
- 2023 Projects – US31 from Blumke Road to North Milton Road and there will be large culvert replaced on M119 on Park Lane in Harbor Springs.
- 2024 Projects – None
- 2025 Projects - US31 from Graham Road to Blumke Road

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Beckman gave an update on the following:

- Crump Road is based in with gravel and paving will happen in a couple of weeks
- Eppler Road project has started with undercuts and cross culverts
- Banwell Road project is progressing and will know more on deck next week
- Bear Creek Ultra-thin project has begun by Rieth-Riley
- Troup and Terpening Road overlays are planned for tomorrow
- Stutsmanville Road project is done as well as Country Club Road project
- Country Club Road project meeting with township officials and contractor is on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.
- Lake Road project is finished and needs a little shoulder work
- Sign Safety project revisions still being completed
- Wilderness Park Drive project begins on Tuesday, June 1. Getting this project completed before July 4 may be difficult and making travelers aware of the best route to the park will be key.

PERMIT/CAD TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Godzik gave a short update that things are going well.

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson stated both trailers and skidsteer have arrived. Large excavator is here and small excavator should be here by middle of June. Brooms for tractors have been cancelled because manufacturer could not deliver before November so we made old brooms work. Two 4X4 large trucks will not arrive before December due to a chip shortage on Allison transmissions. Flat rack truck that was ordered has been cancelled due to a chip shortage so the dealer is looking for other options.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: Zmikly reported regular maintenance of patching holes, dust control is in process, cleaning up Stutsmanville Road project, and marking trees on Wilderness Park Drive to work with Great Lakes Energy on Tuesday.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kleeman reported on the following:

- MTF for April to be received in June will be \$608,085 – reports were distributed.
- Worker's Compensation premium statement for July 2021 through June 2022 was received. The mod factor increased from .675 to .7606, however, the total invoiced for the year decreased by \$137.
- There is an article in CRA's Crossroads Magazine regrading OXCART Permitting. James Godzik and Tori Thompson were instrumental in leading the state with Emmet CRC

being the first county to get ROW permits on the OXCART system. We have been using this system for transportation permits since January 2019.

- Today we are paying off our 2018 equipment loan and making the first payment on our new equipment loan.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Zulski thanked the crew and commented on the safety of the organization and utilizing the right resources like hiring tree companies for dangerous trees. Commissioner Hoffman offered congratulations on the low accident rating and Zulski asked if he would be on the agency's safety committee to which Hoffman agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor – Country Club Road workmanship is a pretty poor job and he will be meeting with Beckman and the contractor next week as it is unacceptable. The Kolinske Road Ultra-thin project begins today or tomorrow but a logger has moved in the past week and won't be leaving until next week and Keiser asked Godzik to talk to the logger and get pictures on this road. Gruler Road has a pretty large edge drop, 3-4 inches, and Beckman discussed shoulder gravel is part of the job and Keiser asked for a timeline for the contractor to do the shoulders and Beckman stated 10 days. Beckman also discussed quality control is in the contract.
- b. Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor – Inquired to Keiser about a DPW Board appointment from the road commission. Hoffman will plan to attend the next DPW board meeting via Zoom for informational purposes and Gutowski stated the next road commission board meeting will be scheduled for an appointment.
- c. Thomas Miller, Trailsend Bay Property Association – Inquired on the MDOT I75 project from M108 (Old Mackinac Highway) to the bridge. He also asked about I75 between Levering Road and US31. Gutowski found listed under Cheboygan county projects that this area will be reconstructed in 2023.

Commissioner Zulski adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.



Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

6-10-21

Date