

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, September 20, 2021. Frank Zulski, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

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 John Gray – South Road Foreman
Ed Zmikly – North Road Foreman Robert Genson – Equipment Superintendent

Guests Present:

Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Twp. Supervisor Toni Drier – Emmet County Commissioner
Gordon & Edith Kruskie – Readmond Twp. Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Twp. Supervisor
Brent Shank Fred Hoffman
Mark Bolitho

Guests Present via Zoom:

Thomas Miller – Trailsend Bay Property Assoc. Roger Moore – Wawatam Twp Supervisor
Sandy Planisek – Mackinaw News Michael Reaves-Emmet County Administrator
Lisa Fineout – Readmond Township Supervisor Al Welsheimer – Fire Chief Resort/Bear Creek

MINUTES: It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to approve the regular session minutes of September 2, 2021.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Voucher No. 2137 for Accounts Payable checks 48453 through 48483, in the amount of \$214,856.07 was presented for approval. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL:

Voucher No. 2138 for Payroll No. 19, checks 56869 through 56894 and direct deposit, in the amount of \$93,298.74, was presented for approval. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Message board bids from July were discussed and it was decided to table this item until after the work meeting on October 1, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Roger Moore, Wawatam Township Supervisor – Commented the intersection at Headlands and Wilderness Park Drive needs trees and brush removed for clearer sight.

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. The Emmet County Rural Task Force with Federal State Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and State Category 'D' funds for 2024-2026 proposed projects were discussed as follows:

- 2024 Hathaway Road
- 2025 Brutus Road
- 2026 Brutus Road/Robinson Road
- 2027 Robinson Road

After much discussion about proposed funding, federal aid buyout, and many suggested projects, this item was tabled until October 1, 2021, when these roads could be reviewed further.

- b. Mark Bolitho, a resident of Lamkin Road, requested exploring the option to get the road paved via a petition. Gutowski gave a history on the prior petition to get this "natural beauty" road paved and the voting process used at that time that included the definition of a non-vote; he has received a lot of interest from landowners to get this road paved. There was discussion about 51% of weighted frontage footage. Gutowski stated he would like to get it paved and Zmikly stated that every time it rains, he has to repair the road. Gordon Kruskie stated it would be much safer and cheaper to fix the road than to maintain it as is. Fred Hoffman offered comments regarding the vision and speed of motorists and working with the State Police. Bolitho asked does it take 51% to stop the project or 51% to approve the project? Gutowski will seek legal opinion on this

request. There was further discussion on paving the average width of the road, 16 ½ feet, and not changing the shoulders and ditches of this natural beauty road.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

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

- At the NMARC Annual Meeting last week he had discussion with Senator Wayne Schmidt and his request for projects. Gutowski proposed an asphalt cap over Levering Road from State Road to the past tribal project over the wedging for 1.5 miles for \$250,000. A Chip seal over the federally funded wedging projects done a few years ago was an option for a \$500,000 project. He requested suggestions for a \$750,000 project and was given Ellsworth Road by Hoffman as well as Beach Road. Zulski suggested Miller Road if the county could contribute a portion and Toni Drier, Emmet County Commissioner, suggested contacting Administrator Reaves for a placeholder in the county budget. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor, suggested McDougal Road from the bridge to Click Road; Gutowski stated this would be about \$250,000. Zulski suggested Ellsworth Road for the \$500,000 project and do more wedging, then sealcoat the wedging projects for the \$750,000.
- Road funding update regarding electric vehicles and a \$4.00 annual road tax for each household was suggested by Senator Schmidt. The State has \$10 billion in general fund money and Senator Schmidt is suggesting using up to \$1.3 billion on local roads and bridges.
- MDOT North Region Bridge Council Meeting, Thursday, September 23, in Gaylord. They have about 72 applications and \$1.5 million which is money for about 5 bridges.
- PASER local road ratings will begin this week.
- Winter weather forecast is a La Niña in the Pacific Ocean which may result in a colder and drier winter.
- Ennis Flint provides paint and plastic tape for lane lines and there is a shortage which will result in an estimated price increase of 17-25%

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: None

PERMIT/CAD TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Godzik reported he had no report due to being on vacation last week.

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson reported getting ready for winter by converting trucks.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: Gray reported getting projects wrapped up before winter; McDougal Road paving is complete and shoulders will be done today. Greenwood Road will be paved today and four culverts on Beach Road will be replaced before paving. Zmikly reported completing culvert upgrades in McKinley Township, gravel is being crushed in the Morrow Pit

and beginning shoulders for the wedging projects. New truck driver for the Levering garage started today.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kleeman commented at the CRASIF meeting last week she was elected to a three-year term.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Zulski commented if commissioners have a budget request to get with Lisa Kleeman this week so it can be included in the revision.

Commissioner Zulski, later in the meeting, asked County Administrator Reaves if it has been decided how the covid funds the County received were going to be used and Reaves stated he has inquired of legal consultants and they don't believe they can use these funds for roads but it is early in the process and there are legal consultants assisting the county. Gutowski informed Reaves that CRA and Senator Schmidt asked him to let the county know we are estimated to receive about 60% reimbursement for lost MTF revenue but the county can use the covid funds to make the road commission whole. Reaves and Gutowski will sit down and discuss using the ARPA funds as well as any infrastructure funds that may be received by the road commission in the future on the best way to leverage the funds for projects.

Commissioner Hoffman stated McDougal Road and Mitchell Road look good. He also attended the meetings last week and learned about sexual harassment and more. Hoffman stated he would like to set aside money in the budget so when we do a wedging project, we have enough money to complete the road so we don't have to go back; he gave Elder Road in Bliss Township as an example. Zulski stated there would be a set aside amount in next year's budget for this but not all of the roads can be completed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor-Requested Road signs be replaced and for Gutowski to find any available funding. Gutowski inquired of Michael Reeves, Emmet County Administrator, and he stated he has it in the 2022 budget process for consideration with a possible match.

RECESS: Commissioner Zulski recessed the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

INTERVIEW FOR ENGINEER-MANAGER POSITION: Commissioner Zulski reconvened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. for the purpose of interviewing Brent Shank for the Engineer-Manager position.

It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to offer the position of Engineer-Manager to Brent Shank, beginning January 3, 2022, unless it needs to be negotiated sooner, with a three-year contract and salary to be discussed at a later time.

Roll Call Vote:

Hoffman Yes

Williams Yes

Zulski Yes

Motion carried.

Commissioner Zulski adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.



Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board



Date