

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, October 27, 2023. Chairman Frank Zulski 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:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager	John Gray – South Road Foreman
James Godzik – Permit/CADD Technician	Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Board Clerk
Bob Genson – Equipment Superintendent	Travis Horrocks – Engineer Technician
Ed Zmikly – North Road Foreman	

Guests Present:

Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Twp. Supervisor	Ed Kuligowski - Pleasantview Twp. Supervisor
Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Twp. Supervisor	Don Mapes – Emmet County Commissioner
Mary Zulski	

Guests Present via Zoom:

Dave Boyer – Emmet County Administrator
Al Welsheimer – Bear Creek/Resort Twp. Fire Chief

MINUTES:

It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to approve the regular and closed session minutes of October 13, 2023, and special meeting minutes of October 11 and 12, 2023.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

It was moved by Williams, seconded by Zulski, to approve accounts payable for payment of Vouchers 2347 for electronic funds transfer payments and checks 50941 through 50986 in the amount of \$768,976.99.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL:

It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to approve payroll and electronic deposits for Voucher 2348 for checks 58237 through 58251 in the amount of \$105,621.90.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Heaton Road – Shank informed the board that all the work has been completed on this road to upgrade the road to a plowable standard on the seasonal portion, down to Bill McMasters’ driveway, except the large tree has not been removed. Springvale Township is working with a conservancy to obtain right-of-way. McMasters has not been contacted about additional right-of-way. There was discussion that the tree is dead in the center.

It was moved by Hoffman, seconded by Zulski, to have the tree removed that is in the right-of-way on Heaton Road to prepare the road for winter time maintenance service. There was further discussion for staff to be sure the root system is removed as far as possible from the travel portion that will be maintained.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ENGINEER-MANAGER’S REPORT: Shank gave the following update:

- McDougal Road Bridge - The road is open and two feet of gravel cover was added to meet and exceed the requirement. Paving is scheduled for next Thursday, weather dependent, and guardrail will occur in the spring. Signage and cones will be maintained over the winter in this area. The bridge will not have to be load posted.
- Mitchell Road and Lake Shore Drive requests for additional funding have been submitted to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners. Administrator Boyer discussed the additional funds for Camp Petosega can be used for Mitchell Road and he will take the request for Lake Shore Drive to the full board.

- Michigan State Police Motor Carrier has inquired if the road commission will be requesting patrol services during frost season in 2024; it was agreed this is helpful and Shank will secure a contract for approval.

ENGINEER-TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Horrocks gave the following update:

- Township estimates are in process.
- Gravel processing bid will be going out this afternoon for gravel in the Morrow Pit, the Bellmer Pit, and ice control sand at the Powers Pit.
- Monitoring several projects ensuring drainage is occurring correctly.
- McDougal Road paving is set up for Thursday, weather dependent.
- Robinson Road curve relocation should be surveyed and ready to submit to the State by next week. There was discussion the State will deed easement to the road commission for this area in section 5.
- Equipment auction was 10/17/23. Three lots that did not sell were relisted along with a pickup for 11/21/23. About \$23,000 was brought in through this auction.

PERMIT/CAD TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Godzik mentioned a project on Atkins Road by Roeses' Underground that included directional boring to connect a line for DTE. During this process they hit some large rocks and pushed them up into the road. They have a crew that will fix it by an open cut, removing rocks, and repaving; hopefully completing this by the first of next week. Hoffman mentioned that we need a sign for bump ahead if it doesn't get taken care of quickly.

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson stated about half the fleet is converted for winter. There was discussion on emission standards and the future availability of trucks; there is a lot of uncertainty for both the vendors and the agencies trying to purchase. Genson is going to try and put the bids out by the second week of December.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: Gray stated they are trying to get ready for winter but the weather has put the gravel roads in pretty tough shape. They will be fixing washouts, patching potholes, and marking routes for winter. Zmikly discussed shouldering on US 31, marking winter routes, patching potholes, and getting ready for winter.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kleeman discussed the MTF report for September. She also reminded the board of the Straits Area Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Zuluski mentioned an enjoyable safety banquet and thanked the crew and staff for their continued effort in working safely. The board is proud of the crew and is confident during the tough weather ahead they will continue to perform beyond the standard that is expected.

Commissioner Hoffman discussed a cement culvert that was installed on Boyer Road. He requested a grant be put in for guardrail; if you go off the road the cement culvert is right there. Hoffman also stated the board needs to make a policy for ride quality to be placed in the bid

specifications to protect the board and road commission; he discussed Atkins Road and Intertown Road. Shank explained the issue when a road whines and how this will disappear after the first winter. Shank also mentioned an estimated \$5-8 per ton increase in price to have ride quality in a bid, about 10%. Zulski stated unless he misread the townships, he didn't hear that the townships would want to add 10% to pricing on jobs. Dohm said it could be an option and Keiser stated only one job our of many went bad. Hoffman mentioned he talked with other counties that have put ride quality as an option in the contract for the townships and we could do it for our own protection. Shank explained the difficulty in enforcing this spec on a job but will further research this as an option.

Commissioner Williams would like to visit the tree right-of-way or obstruction policy because the trees on Powers Road are going to continue to be an issue; he feels they should be taken out. The main reason is because the trees on Powers Road severely inhibit the sight lines when looking from the highway up; they shade the road and cause the hill to ice quickly. There is increased traffic on this road and it will likely continue. He suggested we involve an attorney so we are protected on future issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township Supervisor - Be sure that Rouse's adequately digs out and replaces the pavement in this area, full lane width not just a patch, because this is fairly new pavement. The board inquired if Godzik will be sure this is taken care of correctly and he affirmed he would.
- b. Ed Kuligowski, Pleasantview Township Supervisor – Is there a different spec for white lines versus yellow lines? The fog line is gone on Pleasantview Road near Stutsmanville Road. Shank stated the specs for yellow and white lines are the same, the only difference is the color. Horrocks mentioned the yellow line was just repainted and the white line has not been painted in a couple years. Kuligowski inquired if there is a policy for people blowing leaves into a culvert and Shank stated no, there are not enough resources to clean the culverts or monitor this. The foreman will discuss this with homeowners when they see this.

Commissioner Zulski adjourned the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

Lisa Kleeman
Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

11-10-23
Date