

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in special session at the Conway Office on October 12, 2023, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Wawatam, Little Traverse, West Traverse, and Springvale 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

Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director

John Gray – Road Foreman

Wawatam Township Officials:

Supervisor – Roger Moore

Little Traverse Township Officials:

Supervisor – Bill Dohm

Trustee – Ken Garver

Trustee – Joe Chattaway

West Traverse Township Officials:

Trustee – Annie Mooradian

Springvale Township Officials:

Supervisor – Randy McCune

Clerk – Pat McCune

Trustee – Becky Fettig

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. Wawatam Township officials were welcomed at 6:01 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Shank discussed the annual road report he provides to the township and inquired if they would like to be more involved in developing the five-year plan that is included or would they prefer this be discontinued. Shank stated the five-year plan can be misleading to the public for expectations and would like to remove it from the road commission's website. Moore agreed the township would like the plan but it doesn't need to be on the website.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy but are good value for the dollar.

- c. Review of 2023 Projects – There were no projects for 2023.
- d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Moore suggested Straits View Drive for a chip seal. Shank will provide an estimate.
- e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Moore mentioned a barrier on Wilderness Park Drive needs to be removed; Horrocks sent an email today to the contractor.
- f. Other Topics –
 - i. Moore will check on ARPA funds from the county.

Wawatam Township officials left the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

- 4. Little Traverse Township officials were welcomed at 6:32 p.m.
 - a. Road Report – Shank discussed the annual road report he provides to the township and inquired if they would like to be more involved in developing the five-year plan that is included or would they prefer this be discontinued. Shank stated the five-year plan can be misleading to the public for expectations and would like to remove it from the road commission's website.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy but are good value for the dollar. Shank offered some examples and Beach Drive was discussed as a good option for an asphalt overlay. Dohm believes the base of the township's road system is good and overlays would be appropriate.
 - c. Review of 2023 Projects – None were discussed.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Dohm suggested West Hathaway for a chip seal to seal all the cracks. Different options were discussed including a Texas under seal. In a couple years, put a good overlay over the chip seal. Shank and Horrocks stated that Powers Road is a good example of an overlay over a chip seal.
 - ii. Dohm also suggested Beach Road, even though it is a primary road, they are willing to pay for a project, especially since E. Hathaway came in under budget.
 - iii. Dohm discussed Highlands Pike Road but Shank mentioned Boyne Highlands may have plans in this area so they need to wait.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Dohm asked what can be done about truck traffic coming off Kip Road onto E. Hathaway Road leaving a lot of mud.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Dohn discussed that PASER ratings on Green Leaf Drive are low and Shank stated the project will be reflected in next year's rating. Chattaway inquired on how the PASER ratings are determined between different people and Shank discussed training, certification, and statewide deviation standards.

- ii. Dohn asked what is happening with dust control and Shank updated him with the latest information from EGLE. If dust control is not allowed, Warwick and Kipp Road will need to be chip sealed.
- iii. Dohm asked if there has been a change in the road kill situation. Shank stated they will allow a deer to be dragged up to 1,000 feet on private property.
- iv. Dohm stated that John Gray has done a good job taking care of his requests.

Little Traverse Township officials left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

5. West Traverse Township officials were welcomed at 7:00 p.m. with introduction of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Did not discuss the plan specifically but mentioned the road reports were distributed earlier. Mooradian stated she drove around all the roads in her township. She inquired about removing bad portions of the road and replacing it. Shank stated that small patches are expensive instead of a larger project. Mooradian also stated she looks at traffic volumes to help determine what to fix as well as seasonal verses year-round traffic.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy but are good value for the dollar.
 - c. Review of 2023 Projects – There were no projects completed in 2023.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Lower Shore Drive
 - ii. Franklin Park Road
 - iii. Hughston and Quick Road between Lightfoot and State Road.
 - iv. Horrocks reminded Mooradian about a culvert that is going to be replaced on Lower Shore Drive at Five Mile Creek. This project will last about a month.
 - e. Maintenance Topics – None were discussed.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Mooradian asked if gravel can be added on Ridge Road near the end of pavement to allow for parking.
 - ii. Ridge Road improvements and making it wider were discussed. Shank confirmed this road is by right of user, they would have to obtain right-of-way.
 - iii. Mooradian asked about pricing and Shank discussed prices in the road plan the township received are already outdated because of inflation and each project will be looked at for different requirements that can change the price.
 - iv. She requested differing options from the standard 24-foot wide versus the option that includes a 4-5 foot walking shoulder. She will be having a public hearing soon to see if there is interest.
 - v. She inquired about dead deer, is the road commission really not allowed to move the deer and does it really cost \$750 per carcass. Shank responded we are not able to move the deer other than off the roadway.
 - vi. She asked about when the estimates for projects will be available and Shank responded he will have them available before her meeting on November 14.

- vii. She asked him to drive out on Franklin Industrial Park to check out the large chunks that are missing out of the road.

West Traverse Township officials left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

6. Springvale Township officials were welcomed at 7:27 p.m. with an introduction of attendees.
 - a. Road Report – Shank discussed the annual road report he provides to the township and inquired if they would like to be more involved in developing the five-year plan that is included or would they prefer this be discontinued. Shank stated the five-year plan can be misleading to the public for expectations and would like to remove it from the road commission’s website. The township did not receive the plan via email so Shank will send a copy to Randy McCune’s verified email address. Randy McCune agrees with Shank to remove the plan from the website.
 - b. Road Project Discussion – Inflation has increased road construction to about \$500,000 per mile for crush and shapes so Shank is looking at other options like structural or non-structural overlays as they will last 10-15 years. They will not have the same life expectancy but are good value for the dollar.
 - c. Review of 2023 Projects – Randy McCune said they are getting lots of good reports on Graham Road and Trails End Road. There was discussion on the observation of where the fabric was used verses where it was not used; the end of the road where it was not used gets kind of junky. There was also discussion on Stanley Court Road; they are pleased with how this turned out.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Fettig asked if the township could give money to the road commission to get a primary road project done and discussed a special assessment situation in Indian River. Zulski offered that several townships have already done this and discussed the costs that are hindering the agency’s budget. Shank clarified the asphalt policy could be used on Maxwell Road and South Ellsworth Road where the township pays for the materials and the road commission provides labor and equipment. Randy McCune discussed Roy Road and the fact that he hasn’t received any information on this road until recently so he doesn’t believe this road is an option for 2024. Randy McCune stated South Ellsworth Road would be the project to get an estimate for and Shank agreed beginning at Mitchell Road working north. Pat McCune stated they have 2 mills available each year plus allocate general funds to roads; Randy McCune stated they plan for about \$350,000. Shank discussed this portion of South Ellsworth Road could be overlaid and shouldered but the life expectancy would only be about 10-15 years.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Randy McCune discussed tribal stipends being paid to townships east of US 31. Shank explained the history of where tribal funds can and have been used as well as the process for choosing which roads are improved.

- ii. Randy McCune mentioned their board discussed another millage that was previously mentioned, but they are not interested in another one at this time.
- iii. Traffic going to Camp Petosega was discussed as it is using up their local roads; Shank mentioned he has been working with the county trying to get assistance for repairing primary roads in this area.
- iv. Zulski discussed how some of the other townships are writing letters to the county inquiring if there are ARPA or county funds to assist with primary road projects and requested Springvale Township to consider sending a letter also. He stated the board is appreciative of the county board funding sign replacements and the reconstruction of Camp Petosega Road.
- v. Fettig inquired if the township could buy the brine, because small areas cost so much to pave such are Artesian Road. There was further discussion on brine use and reason small areas are so expensive to pave.

Springvale Township officials left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

- 7. Public Comment: None
- 8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-27-23

Date