

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, July 24, 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 James Godzik – Permit/CADD Technician
Bob Genson – Equipment Superintendent Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Board Clerk
John Gray – South Road Foreman

Guests Present:

Ed Kuligowski – Pleasantview Twp. Supervisor Bob Wurst – Pleasantview Twp. Trustee
John Eby – Maple River Twp. Supervisor Bill Dohm – Little Traverse Twp. Supervisor
Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Twp. Supervisor

Guests Present via Zoom:

David White - Emmet County Commissioner Dave Boyer – Emmet County Administrator

MINUTES:

It was moved by Hoffman, seconded by Williams, to approve the regular session minutes of July 6, 2023.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to approve accounts payable for payment of Voucher 2332 for electronic funds transfer payments and checks 50608 through 50655 in the amount of \$637,086.22.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL:

It was moved by Hoffman, seconded by Williams, to approve payroll and electronic direct deposits for Voucher 2333 for checks 58112 through 58126 in the amount of \$105,265.34.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Ed Kuligowski, Pleasantview Township Supervisor – He appreciates Shank’s and the Board’s support, but projects may be happening too fast. He commented on the amount of investment the township has contributed the past couple of years and stated he is meeting with Shank at 11:00 a.m. today.
- b. John Eby, Maple River Township Supervisor – After reviewing the minutes from a couple of meetings ago, the PASER rating discussion was probably a little harsh and he feels the system should continue as the road reports are very important to the township. Their board respects the observations of the report but not necessarily the conclusion. It is very important for them to review what the road commission sees and in later years, Gutowski came to understand Maple River Township’s philosophy and it worked out pretty well.

APPOINTMENTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Atkins Road Project – There was discussion regarding a request from Bear Creek Township for the road commission to contribute toward an additional layer of asphalt. Shank stated project specifications were met, materials and density testing checked out, but ride quality is not part of the specifications. We did our duty on this project and the project was acceptable. Horrocks was available for this project even though the Hathaway Road Project was happening at the same time, we had good coverage.

Commissioner Williams inquired if adding ride quality assurance should be looked into for future contracts. Shank stated it would drive up the cost of asphalt and it would need to be a standard that is not subjective especially pertaining to penalties.

Commissioner Hoffman discussed several other projects completed by Rieth-Riley this year that he has personally driven, and they turned out well. He feels there is a portion of road on this project that is rough and Rieth-Riley should pay for fixing the ride quality as this was a bad job; they should be held accountable, and he wouldn’t give them any other jobs if this is the type of work they are going to do.

Commissioner Zulski discussed the purpose for specifications and standards and if the agency did anything incorrectly, we should fix it. Zulski feels if the project meets specifications and the road commission did not do anything incorrectly, it isn’t our responsibility. He also stated ride quality could be added to the contract if the township requests. He doesn’t feel the road commission should contribute to the cost to fix it.

Commissioner Williams stated he has not personally driven the road but if it isn't part of the specifications, it is not our responsibility. Township Supervisor Keiser stated one lane of the road was smooth and one lane was rough even though the base was good. He went on to state the township has many times paid a portion of a project on a primary road per the road commission's request and this year they are spending over a million dollars on roads. Shank stated they met with Rieth-Riley to reach a compromise, MDOT specs were met, and the project has been accepted. Shank is working with Rieth-Riley on a ride quality standard for future contracts.

It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to contribute \$5,000 toward the Atkins Road Project additional cost to fix the rough portion of the pavement.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Hoffman

Aye: Williams

Nay: Zulski

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams, to support the North Country National Scenic Trail along the front of the agency's property as long as liability insurance is continually applied.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Hoffman, to authorize the Engineer-Manager to send a letter of support to Pleasantview Township for the purpose of working together toward the future development of roads in Pleasantview Township through obtaining a State of Michigan Rural Readiness Funding Grant.

Ayes: Hoffman, Williams, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Straits Area Council Meeting will be Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at Audie's Restaurant in Mackinaw City. Shank, Zulski, Hoffman will plan to attend.

ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT: Shank reported on the following:

- Public hearing for returning 1.6 miles of Old US 31 to gravel is scheduled for the August 17, 2023, board meeting. He encouraged the Board to drive this section of road. There are challenges in breaking up the hardened surface fine enough to grade.

- MCRC SIP Annual Meeting was held last week, and they plan to release a \$3 million refund to the membership. The meeting was very informative regarding employee and road liability updates from attorneys as well as an update on handling roadkill. The current update is to leave small animals on the roadway but to move large animals up to 1,000 feet from a residence. However, they must remain in the right-of-way along with several other rules depending on which route they are on. Commissioner Hoffman stated if the animal is picked up, they have to be taken to a licensed solid waste facility at an approximate cost of \$750 per animal. Supervisor Dohm stated this is an unacceptable policy for the community. Shank stated if our employee removes an animal, they can be charged for poaching or littering. If the DNR finds we are taking them to our pits, we can receive a large fine and be responsible for paying cleanup costs. He will forward this information to Zulski to send to Senator DaMoose.

ENGINEER-TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Shank gave the following update on projects:

- Atkins Road Project repaving is complete with shoulders being placed this morning; just waiting for it to be repainted .
- Krause Road Project is based in and the topcoat of asphalt is happening Wednesday through Friday; this project will receive 3" of asphalt instead of 2".
- Wheeling Road is being paved today.
- Douglas Lake Road Bridge Project piling is being placed today. They ran into some interesting challenges where they found additional concrete and other material that had to be removed.
- Intertown Road Project will begin after Krause Road is complete.
- Robinson Road Project should begin July 31.
- Fochtman Industrial Park Drive will begin August 4 with paving on August 5. Keiser inquired if shoulder restoration could be completed before the final course of pavement and Shank responded this could be added to the contract but could be an extra cost for mobilization.
- Crack sealing is underway which began with bridge decks and will soon move on to primary roads.
- Signs Project update – they have been placed on Resort Pike Road, Mitchell Road, and Banwell Road; next week the plan is to complete State Road and Pleasantview Road.

PERMIT/CAD TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: Godzik updated the board on a project involving Habitat for Humanity in Alanson and their request for the road commission to take over roads. They have been informed of the standards for this process, the person in charge has been given a checklist of requirements for density and gravel testing, and he will be meeting with the coordinator this week. This project is currently in phase one with phase two and three coming in future years. The width of roads has been waived from 32 feet to 28 feet of gravel with 24 feet of asphalt.

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Genson reported they are finishing summer maintenance and gave an update on a possible proposal for a new sign truck that could be

forthcoming. If the truck has to bid out instead of using MiDeal, it could take well over a year. He also mentioned the sign technician put in a full week on signs last week and dust control and mowing has been occurring in the north.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT: Gray stated they have been crack sealing, mowing, ditching, and berm removal.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kleeman distributed and discussed Michigan Transportation Funds for June that will be received in August.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Commissioner Hoffman discussed the light at Pickerel Lake Road and US 31 and inquired how we can get with MDOT to get this light completed. Traffic is very bad in this area and he is concerned there will be a bad accident. Keiser stated this project is slated to be completed after Labor Day; he has waited 13 years for this to be installed.

Commissioner Williams stated South Milton Road has been destroyed by MDOT using it as a sole bypass at least twice. Shank will put in another request to MDOT to address this.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor – Inquired how long the MDOT detour will affect North Conway Road. Shank stated the project is to be completed by October 15, 2023, and the detour will be used again in 2025. There was discussion on a permanent change in traffic pattern that is expected to occur.
- b. Ed Kuligowski, Pleasantview Township Supervisor – Discussed the road commission's process for paying contractor invoices and holding contractors accountable for a good job. How much input do you want from the township on whether the contractor is doing a good job or not before we pay the contractor? Keiser also added they pay 90% on small jobs and 50% on large jobs so there isn't enough left to hold contractor accountable. Shank stated he holds 10% on jobs until the job is completed and accepted.

Commissioner Zulski recessed the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Commissioner Zulski reconvened the meeting at 8:57 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Hoffman, to go into closed session at 8:57 a.m. to discuss collective bargaining agreement negotiations; MCL 15.268(c).

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Williams

Aye: Zulski

Aye: Hoffman

Motion carried

It was moved by Williams, seconded by Hoffman, to go back into open session at 9:31 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Williams

Aye: Zulski

Aye: Hoffman

Motion carried

Township projects were briefly discussed.

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



Lisa Kleeman, Finance Director-Clerk of the Board

8-3-23

Date