

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 8, 2024, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Little Traverse, Bear Creek, and Friendship Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski, Chairman

Wade Williams, Member

Commissioners Absent:

Mark Hoffman, Vice-Chairman

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager

Travis Horrocks – Engineer Technician

Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director

John Gray – South Road Foreman

Guests Present:

Ken Golding

Little Traverse Township Officials:

Supervisor – Bill Dohm

Trustee – Ken Garver

Trustee – Joe Chattaway

Bear Creek Township Officials:

Supervisor – Dennis Keiser

Clerk – Emma Radatovich

Trustee – Joe Hoffman

Deputy Supervisor – Garrett Muir

Treasurer – Connie Golding

Friendship Township Officials:

Clerk – Janell Van Divner

Treasurer – Kati Negley

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. Little Traverse Township officials were welcomed at 6:01 p.m.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August. There was some discussion on PASER ratings and road improvements.
  - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township’s budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval.
  - c. Review of 2024 Projects – A portion of Beach Road was wedged and was discussed for consideration under the asphalt policy.

- d. 2025 Planned Projects – Little Traverse Township has about \$300,000 to spend and they appreciated the letter received from the road commission. They are thinking about the following:
  - i. Beach Road - Would the road commission be willing to pay 20% for a cap if the township pays 80%? Dohm is basing this request on the normal match for federal aid projects. Zulski stated this would be considered during the upcoming budget meeting.
  - ii. Kip Road paving was discussed as some ditching has been completed and the road is in pretty good shape from the grindings that have been placed.
  - iii. Catob Road from Pleasantview Road then west is PASER rated 3. Reconstruction projects with a crush and shape are \$500-700,000 per mile so an option would be a heavy overlay for the \$200-300,000 price range as an alternative fix. You won't see a 30-year life, but you could overlay it a couple times during that time period and save money.
  - iv. Dohm stated they would be willing to work with the other townships and split expenses 50/50 on Highland Pike, Graham Road, and Powell Road.
- e. Maintenance Topics – Garver requested trimming more of the right-of-way on Hathaway Road and Pleasantview Road. Gray will check to see if it can be trimmed further. There was further discussion on this intersection and no passing signs.
- f. Other Topics:
  - i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile if an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change. Dohm discussed Woodview Drive specifically.
  - ii. A pickup was seen driving on the easement from Kip Road to the road commission. Dohm requested signage to stop traffic in this area.
  - iii. Chattaway thanked them for removing trees on Hedrick Road; this was a huge improvement.

Little Traverse Township officials left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

4. Bear Creek Township officials were welcomed at 6:26 p.m.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August.
  - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township's budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval.

- c. Review of 2024 Projects – Keiser thanked Shank for the letter sent to the township and discussed the following:
  - i. Cedar Valley Road – Shank met with Elmers regarding the culvert bumps and they are willing to look at it in the spring. It may be a compaction issue, and if the pavement has to be cut it will be from north of the big culvert all the way to Greenwood Road. Keiser would like to see the drainage ditch on the north side fixed with a basin.
  - ii. Maplewood Road project turned out good. Hoffman stated there hasn't been any rain after the project was seeded and the monument box is in. He doesn't know how the rain will flow into his corn field.
  - iii. Mitchell Road project turned out good.
- d. 2025 Planned Projects – Keiser stated they are trying to do \$800,000 to \$1 million per year and suggested the following:
  - i. Greenwood Road from McDougal through the intersection to Cedar Valley Road.
  - ii. Haas Road could be bid as an alternate option with the Greenwood Road project; then it could be removed if the bid comes in too high.
  - iii. Cemetery Road has one section just north of Lears Road that needs attention. Shank stated he has a fix for this road that will be completed in the next week or two.
  - iv. Anderson Road is scheduled for a 2026 Small Urban Grant.
- e. Maintenance Topics – None other than discussed below.
- f. Other Topics:
  - i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile if an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change.
  - ii. Keiser discussed two large potential developments; one on Atkins Road and one on the south end of Intertown Road at Anderson.
  - iii. Hoffman discussed the roadkill issue resulting from the Governor and EGLE's interpretation of the law.
  - iv. Muir inquired about the shoulder of McDougal Road at Click Road; Gray needed some contact information that Muir was able to give him.
  - v. Hoffman asked if we have done any shoulder work around the township especially on East Mitchell Road; it has really dropped near his house and all along this road, 5 inches plus.
  - vi. Hoffman stated snowplowing was excellent this past year.
  - vii. Keiser appreciated the road commission allowing the utility company to continue to work on the gas line to the new fire hall and residences.

Bear Creek Township officials left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Zulski recessed the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

5. Friendship Township officials were welcomed at 7:00 p.m.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August. Van Divner inquired about Hurd Road being PASER rated a 3. Shank replied the type of cracking has determined this rating.
  - b. Road Project Discussion – Shank clarified the process for project development. Once he receives a project request with the township’s budgeted amount to spend, an estimate is built and sent to the township with a contract. If the contract is approved, the project is put out for bids. If the bids come in under estimate, the project is recommended for approval. If the bids come in over estimate, the township is contacted for approval.
  - c. Review of 2024 Projects:
    - i. Wressel Road overlay project looks good but Van Divner questioned the double yellow line with no passing. Shank explained the painting company determines these lines. He also discussed the overlay project was a good example of an alternative fix for a PASER rating of 2 and he believes this will be a good fix and perform well over time.
    - ii. Seal coat projects turned out well but the line painting on Fisher Road needs to be looked at.
  - d. 2025 Planned Projects:
    - i. Shank received the contract for tree removal and budgetary numbers are better than expected and he believes at least four of the roads originally proposed can be done. Van Divner stated the county will be signing the grant on October 17 and Shank stated the bid will go out after that. Property owners will need to be contacted about keeping the trees after they are cut.
    - ii. Van Divner said Marty inquired about getting gravel on Middle Village Road east of State Road, the first half mile, yet this fall and getting the berms taken care of next spring. Shank discussed a 4-6” gravel lift would help this road and keep it from getting muddy and drainage would work better.
    - iii. Horrock’s discussed West Traverse Township is considering doing another part of Lower Shore Drive if Friendship Township wanted to participate with this project.
    - iv. Van Divner also looked at Lightfoot Road and Hurd Road and is thinking when seal coat comes back again, this would be a good option.
    - v. Van Divner inquired about crack sealing and Shank responded that primary roads have been getting caught up and next year local roads may see more done.
    - vi. Van Divner requested center and fog line painting on the same roads as was done previously. Shank stated he will get prices to her in the spring.
  - e. Maintenance Topics – Negley inquired about tree work on Stutsmanville Road from the town hall down towards the church and Van Divner believes that Zmikly has plans to work on this.
  - f. Other Topics:
    - i. Public Act 33, regarding setting speed limits, had a new clause added in 2024. Section 5 of MCL 257.628 states a speed limit may be set below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile if

an engineering and safety study demonstrates a situation with hazards to public safety; but must not be set below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. The township submits a formal request to the road commission and reimbursement for the required engineering and safety study would be the responsibility of the requesting party. Michigan State Police are still responsible for giving final approval on the change.

- ii. Zulski suggested the township may want to send a letter of thanks to their county commissioner and county board regarding the match given to the township the past two years.
- iii. Van Divner inquired when Brutus Road will be worked on and Shank replied Brutus Road east of US 31 to the county line will be completed in 2025 and tribal funding will begin on this road in 2026. She stated Robinson Road is very nice but needs some tree trimming. Shank stated the curve realignment went well on this project.
- iv. Van Divner said Stutsmanville Road is beginning to show some wear and tear. The portion the road commission was supposed to take care of when the project was originally completed several years ago, from Townline Road to Terpening Road, is looking pretty ragged. She stated a wedging project on this portion would do wonders.

Friendship Township officials left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

- 6. Public Comment: None
- 7. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

  
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Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-11-24  
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Date