

MINUTES  
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in special session at the Levering building on October 8, 2025, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Carp Lake, McKinley, Maple River, and Wawatam Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski, Chairman                      Wade Williams, Vice-Chairman                      Jim Kargol, Member

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager                      Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director  
Ed Zmikly – North Road Foreman

Guests Present: None

Carp Lake Township Officials:

Trustee – John Sonnenberg

McKinley Township Officials:

Clerk – Alicia Morrow                      Treasurer – Elizabeth Readmond

Maple River Township Officials:

Supervisor – John Eby                      Clerk – Tammy Gregory  
Trustee – Art Beach                      Trustee – Stanley Wekwert  
Treasurer – Leslie Budnick

Wawatam Township Officials:

Supervisor – Roger Moore                      Trustee – Roy Cole

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.
2. Roll was called.
3. Carp Lake Township officials were welcomed at 5:58 p.m.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no discussion.
  - b. Review of 2025 Projects:
    - i. Pachy Road
  - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
    - i. Seal coat project is planned on primary roads but there are not any potential roads in Carp Lake Township. Sonnenberg inquired about Schmalzried Road from township line to Old School House Road or Hiar Road would be an option but Shank stated it won't get normal longevity; however, it would seal the cracks well.
    - ii. Luesing Road chip seal could be an option from the township line to Old School House Road or Hiar Road depending on costs.

- iii. Wheeling Road ultra-thin could be considered for 2027 if a seal coat is completed in 2026.
- iv. Township budget is about \$100,000.
- d. Maintenance Topics:
  - i. Ice Storm cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Clean up will continue in the spring if needed.
- e. Other Topics:
  - i. Gill Road, from US31 then west is on the list for 2029 Federal Aid project.
  - ii. Zulski discussed new road funding.

Carp Lake Township officials left the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

- 4. McKinley Township officials were welcomed at 6:30 p.m.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August. Discussed Douglas Lake Road recommendation for a chip seal.
  - b. Review of 2025 Projects: None.
  - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
    - i. Seal Coat project is planned on primary roads. A list of potential roads was sent to the township. It was requested to submit a list in early November in order to get the best price and schedule.
  - d. Maintenance Topics:
    - i. Ice Storm cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed.
    - ii. Grading today caused a berm on Ball Road at Readmond's driveway and it is causing water to run into her driveway and yard; Zmikly will look at it.
    - iii. Zulski explained there will not be a wedging program next year in order to perform more maintenance activities.
  - e. Other Topics:
    - i. Morrow inquired about the new state budget and the impact on the road commission. Zulski discussed there is much unknown at this time.
    - ii. Readmond inquired on FEMA reimbursement for the Ice Storm damage and Shank commented on what he is aware of at this time.

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

- 5. Maple River Township officials were welcomed at 6:55 p.m.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August, no discussion.
  - b. Review of 2025 Projects:
    - i. Brutus Road Wedging
  - c. 2026 Planned Projects - There was much discussion on the township's request for projects verses appropriateness for the road and longevity of specific fixes.

- i. Seal Coat project on primary roads. A list of potential roads was sent to the township. It was requested to submit a list in early November in order to get the best price and schedule. There was some discussion on how Amish traffic impacts seal coat roads, according to reports from other states.
  - ii. Valley Road overlay was requested last year and they never received any information.
  - iii. Gregory Road was turned down for a wedging project last year according to Eby. Shank responded that this road was not a good candidate for wedging due to the lack of a crown so he sent an estimate for an overlay which would be a more appropriate fix.
  - iv. Tower Road from Red School Road to Durkalic Road is rated a 5 and would be a prime candidate for a single-layer seal coat.
  - v. Plains Road and Gregory Road were discussed for seal coating projects.
  - vi. Sunny Ridge Road and Valley Road were discussed regarding culvert needs.
  - vii. BIA is funding a project for \$1 million on Brutus Road from US31 heading west to approximately Cupp Road. Eby inquired about the next section of this road and what is expected. Shank discussed why that section of road was chosen. They stated Brutus Road keeps getting pushed back and the township gets a lot of unhappy calls on Brutus Road.
- d. Maintenance Topics:
  - i. Ice Storm cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed.
  - ii. Eby stated it is the washouts that are the problem right now due to all the rain.
- e. Other Topics:
  - i. Zulski explained there will not be a wedging program next year in order to perform more maintenance activities.
  - ii. Zulski discussed new road funding.

Maple River Township officials left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

- 6. Wawatam Township officials were welcomed at 7:23 p.m. with introduction of attendees.
  - a. Road Report – Distributed in August.
  - b. Review of 2025 Projects: None
  - c. 2026 Planned Projects:
    - i. Seal Coat project on primary roads. A list of potential roads was sent to the township. It was requested to submit a list in early November in order to get the best price and schedule.
    - ii. There was discussion on bundling different roads for a seal coat and fit within the township's budget. Point Drive is probably the best option.
  - d. Maintenance Topics:

- i. Ice Storm cleanup update and plan for continuing to chip debris. The road commission is taking care of road debris but not residential debris. Cleanup will continue in the spring if needed.
- e. Other Topics:
  - i. Enbridge using the roads.
  - ii. Zulski discussed new road funding.

Wawatam Township officials left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-17-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date