

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 11, 2023, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from Bear Creek, Pleasantview, Littlefield, and Maple River 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

Guests Present:

Garrett Muir

Bear Creek Township Officials:

Supervisor – Dennis Keiser
Clerk – Emma Radatovich
Trustee – Joe Hoffman
Trustee – Tom Urman

Pleasantview Township Officials:

Supervisor – Ed Kuligowski
Clerk – Debra Bosma
Trustee – Bob Wurst

Littlefield Township Officials:

Supervisor – Damien Henning
Clerk – Sondra Festerling
Trustee – Katie Derrohn

Maple River Township Officials:

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

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. Bear Creek 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. Keiser agreed to remove it.
 - 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 – Krause Road project is still being monitored to be sure the spillways are behaving and grass is growing. Fochtman Industrial Park Drive project is looking good; Manthei's portion will probably occur next year. Howard and Lears Road signal is working; Godzik is completing a speed study.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Mitchell Road Small Urban Project – The project estimate was \$300,000 for a mill and fill from Division Road into the city limits. Federal Covid funds were pulled from this project in August, and this leaves a large unfunded amount of \$165,000; \$135,000 is available in small urban funding. Shank believes this is beyond what the road commission can backfill; the original plan was for a \$30,000 match but the increase in overall project estimated costs and the loss of \$81,000 of covid funds makes this project difficult to continue. Zulski commented the main focus of 2024 funds will be Lake Shore Drive which will require a \$700,000 match. Keiser stated that traffic counts should be a consideration when deciding where to spend funds.
 - ii. Keiser stated they were looking at three projects but with the increase in costs and the decrease in the PASER rating of two points this past year they didn't want to put funds into the Mitchell Road project shortfall.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Urman discussed the corner of McDougal and Click Road headed northbound; the trucks beat it up and it has really deep holes and needs some work.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Joe Hoffman inquired about pricing of asphalt due to the buyout of one of the contractors. Horrocks stated he believes you won't see a major change. Shank went on to explain what he generally sees in bids from each of the contractors and he doesn't anticipate much of an effect right now. Horrocks also stated there are not a lot of large MDOT projects planned in the area next year and this may help.
 - ii. Keiser discussed packaging projects together to get a better price. Horrocks and Shank discussed why prices differ depending on the length of the paving and logistics of where and what you are paving.
 - iii. Keiser questioned if Shank has any contacts to get Cedar Valley paved so it becomes a class A road; Shank will reach out and see what can be done.
 - iv. McDougal Road Bridge needs to be posted for reduced loads at 14/22/38 tons for trucks because we don't meet the minimum culvert coverage requirement. The estimate to remove the posting is approximately \$130,000 as it requires a minimum of 8" of gravel to be added over the tubes. This will have a major impact to the area as it is a major truck bypass route.
 - v. Keiser inquired about line painting. Shank stated we were two years behind on line painting; this year we focused on primary roads and completed about 75 center lane miles. The plan is to get some local roads painted this coming year.

- vi. Keiser requested Shank to attend Bear Creek's board meeting because he needs more than a half hour to discuss road project plans. Mitchell and McDougal are main roads and this needs to be discussed in greater length; Shank and Zulski agreed to attend. Keiser will set a time and let them know.
- vii. Joe Hoffman inquired about road signs that you cannot read. Shank informed him that the signs are here and are being installed.
- viii. Joe Hoffman also discussed Atkins Road; informing Shank it was bumpy before it was paved, and they paved it anyway and then the township had to spend extra money to have it fixed. You cannot pave a bumpy road and expect it to be right. Shank stated the road met MDOT tolerances. Hoffman inquired why they had to spend all the money to fix it if the road was okay. Shank discussed ride quality is not part of the specifications for projects and the best solution is two course paving.
- ix. Joe Hoffman discussed Maplewood Road has been washed out all summer as the tip up is gone and there is a large drop off which is dangerous, and stated we need to be more proactive in this area. Shank said they fixed the area multiple times this summer will get the tip up reestablished next year and then try to keep up with this area.
- x. Joe Hoffman Cedar Valley Road also needs to be fixed as a big chunk of the road is gone.
- xi. Joe Hoffman stated he has been asking for shoulder gravel for three years and along East Mitchell is a large drop off. Gray stated they were out there this spring and they did all the corners from Roy Road out. Hoffman stated going towards Petoskey is where shoulders are breaking off.
- xii. Radatovich inquired about emergency vehicles over McDougal bridge and Shank said stated they can still cross.

Bear Creek Township officials left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

4. Pleasantview 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. Kuligowski is okay with the plan being removed but had a few questions on road lengths on the road list. Phelps Road was abandoned in 2012 or 2013 to the property owners and needs to be removed from the list.
 - 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 –
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Chip sealing was discussed; Shank is gathering information to see which townships are interested so he can get at least 20 miles to obtain good pricing. Kuligowski

and Wurst inquired about the specifics with chip seal projects and Shank responded on the stone size and specifications that have been working successfully. Wurst asked if the prices on the chip seal are firm, and Shank stated he believes they are and he will get him an updated price for the project list.

- ii. If Hylands Pike is planned, it will take a couple of years to save funds.
- e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Kuligowski inquired about dust control regulations and supply; Zulski gave him an update on EGLE's information from a conference he attended and on the supplier used this past year.
- f. Other Topics –
 - i. Kuligowski said line striping was really helpful in front of the gas station on Pleasantview and Hylands Pike. It could use another arrow in this area. He inquired about the Pleasantview and Hathaway Road intersection. Shank discussed a turn lane that is planned and Zulski gave a current update.
 - ii. Wurst inquired about loggers getting permits from frost laws or driveways and Shank responded loggers no longer need permits. Zulski stated there have not been as many problems in the past year as their association is helping maintain a standard.
 - iii. Kuligowski inquired about the Monarch Butterfly and restrictions for mowing. Zulski and Shank stated we can still mow but we are required to have a certain amount of setback; intersection site distances can be maintained.
 - iv. Golding inquired about getting the signs up first thing in the spring for ATV's. Kuligowski stated they do not have the permit for that yet. Wurst inquired about Hidden Driveway signs getting installed on Brutus Road east of North Conway; Kuligowski will send Shank a list of where they need to be installed.

Pleasantview Township officials left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

5. Littlefield Township officials were welcomed at 7:00 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. Henning discussed that a disclaimer could be added to the plan but if it is causing confusion it could be emailed to the township and not posted on the website. He added it is a great report. Henning also stated that he uses road counts to influence his decision.
 - 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 – Henning stated residents on Mission Road are very pleased with the project that was completed this year.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects – Potential projects were discussed, nothing has been decided.

- i. Smith Road between Banwell Road and Lakeview Road is an unsafe road. Damien stated if we turn this road back to gravel it will help the good road rating percentage. The aprons are decimated and would need repair. Festerling inquired if this could be done still this fall, but Shank said it would make it a big mud hole. Shank stated the grader can reclaim this road and asked if Henning would agree to a 4" gravel lift; he agreed.
 - ii. Henning inquired about Moore Road and a 2" asphalt overlay; would wedging be involved? Shank stated yes, on the curve near Valley Road and near Stagecoach Road.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Derrohn stated the Indiana Point culvert needs to be cleaned out before it freezes this winter. Gray inquired if the private property owners were doing a good job of keeping the area cleaned out and she said yes. He will get a Miss Dig called in and get this done in the next few weeks.
 - ii. Derrohn inquired about street signs and Hoffman stated they are here. Shank stated there are over 3,800 signs to install and this project should be complete by the end of next summer.
 - iii. Derrohn stated the crew did a great job last year with the sand and salt.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Henning discussed Moore Road and South Milton Road and the impact the MDOT construction had on them even though they were not part of the detour route.
 - ii. Henning stated Valley Road has held up really well from Milton Road to Moore Road. Lakeview Road from M-68 to Banwell Road has a lot of broken edges.
 - iii. Henning inquired about Lake Street but it is under the jurisdiction of the Village of Alanson Road and Shank stated he could not do this project.
 - iv. Henning stated Banwell Road never seems to get on the table; is it on the horizon at all? Shank stated not currently. Festerling said the road is deteriorating quickly and traffic going to Camp Petosega is using local roads instead of using Banwell Road. Henning stated Banwell Road is worse than Moore Road, it is unsafe. Derrohn inquired if it is in the ten-year plan. Shank said it will be discussed at the next budget meeting with the board.
 - v. Henning stated that the summer apprentice program that worked on a culvert at Walter Dow Park did a great job.
 - vi. Zulski inquired if the township was able to receive ARPA funds from the county and Henning stated they are still completing the paperwork.

Littlefield Township officials left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

6. Maple River Township officials were welcomed at 7:30 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. Eby agrees the reports could be removed.

- 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 – Tower Road and Durkalic Road wedging projects turned out well.
- d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Shank recommended chip sealing some of the wedging projects this year and Eby said they are planning on 4.53 miles. There was some discussion on the specifications Shank has used in the past 5 years and they are holding up nicely; the fog seal really helps. Eby inquired about a triple seal over a gravel road but Shank stated it is not much more in cost to get a 2-inch asphalt overlay which will give a structural upgrade, cars and trucks are much heavier than they were. Eby also inquired when Bill Road was sealed and Shank answered 2022. The township may have a private doner so Shank will give him an estimate for a triple seal and an overlay.
 - ii. Beach inquired if the chip seal program will run every other year, and Shank agreed he would like to see that. Beach then inquired if the road commission would crack seal in the opposite year. Eby stated some of the gravel to asphalt roads are starting to spider crack so a chip seal would be appropriate; he provided a color-coded map for Shank.
- e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Eby stated the corner of Euclid Street and Brutus Road, he cannot see up the hill, the trees completely block his view with the bus; this is a safety issue.
 - ii. Teal Road between Robinson Road and Palmer Road is not a seasonal road and is not being plowed. Ben mentioned this was not plowed last year, possibly because it is being used as a snowmobile trail. Shank will check, it should be getting plowed.
- f. Other Topics –
 - i. Beach asked for a PASER Rating sheet.

Maple River Township officials left the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-27-23

Date