

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 10, 2023, for the purposes of discussing road issues with township officials from McKinley, Cross Village, Friendship, and Center Township.

Commissioners Present:

Frank Zulski, Chairman
Mark Hoffman, Member

Commissioners Absent:

Wade Williams, Vice Chairman

Staff Present:

Brent Shank – Engineer/Manager
Lisa Kleeman - Finance Director
Travis Horrocks – Engineer Technician
Ed Zmikly – Road Foreman

Guests Present:

Joan Young – Cross Village Caller
George Smolak

McKinley Township Officials:

Supervisor – Mark Drier
Treasurer – Elizabeth Readmond
Clerk – Alicia Morrow

Cross Village Township Officials:

Supervisor – Steven Keller
Trustee – Howard Wood
Clerk – Diane Keller
Treasurer – Marie Garrett

Friendship Township Officials:

Clerk – Janell Van Divner
Treasurer – Kati Negley

Center Township Officials:

Clerk – Rhea Dreffs
Trustee – Susan St. Amour
Treasurer – Michelle Zmikly
Trustee – Judy Van Avery

1. Chairman Zulski called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll was called.
3. McKinley Township officials were welcomed at 6:02 p.m. with introductions 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. McKinley Township officials agreed with the recommendation 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 – The gravel projects turned out well.
- d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Drier stated he would like the focus to be on gravel roads. Shank stated he expects a 10-15% increase in gravel costs. Drier doesn't have a specific plan yet; they are waiting to see how the underlayment is going to hold come spring before they decide to move forward. Shank stated it is fine to wait until spring to decide on gravel projects. Horrocks mentioned it would be good to complete a gravel project before it is time to brine gravel roads for the summer, it helps the road tighten up.
 - ii. Drier asked Shank about responsibility of Marshall Lane; Shank responded it is Carp Lake Township's responsibility as the rule is the south and west border is the township's responsibility. Marshall Lane is on McKinley's road list; McKinley Township can choose to fix this road, but it should be on Carp Lake's list. Drier stated it showed up this year for the first time on McKinley's list, but he has always considered it a driveway.
- e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Grading of gravel roads has left wicked high berms, 6 inches plus, in front of the driveways again this year. This has been mentioned at prior meetings but this year they were deeper. Drier likes when they pull in the country curbs and reestablish the crowns but cutting them too low in front of the driveways caused a lot of complaints this year.
 - ii. Washouts on hills on gravel roads; Reed Road is one area, near Scott's and Spencley's. Zmikly commented there are no ditches in this area.
 - iii. Drier inquired if there is money left in the tree removal budget and Shank stated no.
 - iv. Drier complimented Zmikly on doing a great job.
- f. Other Topics – Zulski inquired if they received ARPA funds from the county. They have not received their bill from the road commission as one more invoice needs to be obtained before the township can be billed. He also stated 14 townships took advantage of the available ARPA funds from the county.

McKinley Township officials left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

- 4. Cross Village Township officials were welcomed at 6:30 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.
 - 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 – No projects completed in Cross Village Township in 2023.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. The Wycamp Creek bridge should begin as early in the construction season as possible and be completed by mid-July; this is an estimated 60-day project for a triple span timber bridge. The bridge project will require a significant detour for homeowners as this will require a total road closure. Smolak inquired if it would be completed before the bike race. Zulski stated Shank will give the township advance notice before the bridge project begins.
 - ii. Lake Shore Drive project is in design right now and will start in mid-July. This is a 4.6 mile project beginning in Cross Village and ending at Sturgeon Bay Drive. Shank stated the estimate is approximately \$2.1 million, the federal grant is \$1.4 million which leaves about \$700,000 to be funded by the road commission with possible assistance from the county and township. The road is planned for 24 feet wide pavement which allows the environmental impact to be kept to a minimum. There may be some cost-saving potential depending on the drainage issue in Cross Village; more will be known after the draft plans are received.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Cross Village Project from last year has caused a lot of water to pool in Smolak's driveway. Shank discussed what could be done to mitigate this issue. Smolak stated it was pointed out a year ago and nothing has been done. Much discussion ensued. Keller and Shank discussed there is surface drainage only, no underground drains. Keller suggested digging and finding the old drain to tap into it. Wood suggested digging down below the clay and getting a drain installed. Shank will look in the files to determine depth of the clay in this area and come up with a suggestion.
 - ii. Wood suggested some tar is needed in the village and on Levering Road west of Canby Road in the center before winter. In the park area there needs to be some gravel placed to smooth it out; there was discussion on ownership of this road.
 - iii. Diane Keller stated there is still a large mud puddle in front of the post office. Wood stated when the black top was added they didn't put enough in this spot to allow for drainage.
 - iv. Smolak stated the asphalt in the parking lane of the village was softer and the motorcycles are putting holes in the asphalt with their kickstand. He suggests using harder asphalt in parking areas.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Zulski discussed the ARPA funds available to the township. Keller stated they still have \$44,000 match available.
 - ii. Steven Keller inquired about what happens if the match for Lake Shore Drive cannot be raised, can the project be shortened? Zulski stated the project cannot be shortened and the road commission will be responsible for the entire match.

- He encouraged the township to write the county to ask them to assist with the match as well as encourage their neighboring townships to write the county.
- iii. Wood stated there is a small hole on Wadsworth Road that needs to be repaired.

Cross Village Township officials left the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

5. Friendship Township officials were welcomed at 7:05 p.m. with 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. Van Divner agreed it can cause confusion because it changes from year to year.
 - 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. There was discussion on costs and longevity for double chip seals verses ultra thins.
 - c. Review of 2023 Projects – Terpening Road wedging project turned out nice.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Shank is attempting to gather preliminary data for a chip seal program, and he inquired if Friendship Township is interested. Van Divner listed potential plans for chip seal on Terpening, East and West Fisher, Hurd, Boynton, and West Wressel Road; a little over five miles. Wressel Road east of Lightfoot was discussed in detail regarding eligibility for wedging and chip seal. Shank stated Wressel Road east of Lightfoot is probably not a good option for a chip seal as it would need to be wedged first but basically a 2-inch asphalt overlay would be best. Negley inquired if it would be better to take this road back to gravel and it was agreed this is an option. Shank confirmed East Wressel Road would fall under the asphalt policy; he will look at this road again to determine options.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Van Divner stated Marty wants brush cut on West Townline, West Stutsmanville Road on the north side, and west of Five Mile Creek on Stutsmanville Road. Zmiky stated he has plans for these areas after the leaves fall.
 - ii. Negley inquired when the curve that was going to be removed on Stutsmanville Road at Townline Road; Shank stated this isn’t planned.
 - iii. Shank discussed how long it will take for the flashing stop signs to be delivered and installed.
 - iv. Van Divner stated the line painting is awesome and came in less than anticipated.
 - v. Negley stated Townline Road still needs to have trees removed as it is very dark area. Zulski discussed the lack of budget for tree removal and stated most of the trees are outside of the right-of-way. Van Divner stated the property owners would probably agree to have them removed.

- f. Other Topics –
 - i. Van Divner discussed Lamkin Road and the township paving survey; 12 voted for and 32 voted against. The township people expressed they prefer the road to be maintained instead of paved.

Friendship Township officials left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

- 6. Center Township officials were welcomed at 7:30 p.m. with 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.
 - 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 – Wedging on Larks Lake Road turned out good.
 - d. 2024 Planned Projects –
 - i. Dreffs inquired on the best option for the township; a chipseal on Larks Lake Road or another construction project. Shank discussed a chip seal on Larks Lake Road is a very good use of their money as well as other needs throughout the township.
 - ii. Dreffs inquired on the road commission plans for 2024 and Shank responded with plans for Lake Shore Drive north of Cross Village, more of Robinson Road will be done with tribal funds which involves reconfiguring the curve near the prison camp entrance and continuing east towards Pleasantview Road.
 - iii. Dreffs inquired if Van Road has been discussed but Shank responded it is not on the current list. He will be working on 2027 plans in the coming weeks and realizes this road needs work as well as many others.
 - e. Maintenance Topics –
 - i. Dreffs discussed a lilac bush that needs to be removed near the township hall on Larks Lake Road because it is a safety issue. Zulski agreed the site distance is impacted.
 - f. Other Topics –
 - i. Zulski discussed the budget shortfall and thanked the township for putting their dollars on primary roads. Shank also expressed his appreciation.
 - ii. Zulski inquired if the township received their ARPA funds from the county and Dreffs confirmed they received the funds.
 - iii. St. Amour inquired what was the last road the road commission put any funding into for a primary road in Center Township. Shank confirmed the road commission reconstructed Levering Road from Pleasantview Road to Keiser Road in 2022. Zulski discussed the financial situation of the road commission, the history of road funding, and the townships contributions of over \$45 million the past several years

since the millage was in place. He asked them to send a letter to the county regarding participation in funding for Lake Shore Drive. Dreffs suggested the road commission ask the Polo Club to participate.

Center Township officials left the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

- 7. Public Comment: None
- 8. Chairman Zulski adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.



Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

10-13-23

Date