

MINUTES
EMMET COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Emmet County Board of Road Commissioners met in regular session at their offices in Harbor Springs on August 10, 2017. The Chairman, Frank Zulski, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Frank Zulski, Leroy Sumner, and Larry Williams

Staff Present: Brian Gutowski – Engineer-Manager, Shawn Beckman –Projects Manager, Tori Thompson – Administrative Assistant/Acting Clerk, James Godzik – Permit /CADD Technician, Bob Genson – Equipment Superintendent, and Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board.

Guests Present:

Gordy and Edith Kruskie – Readmond Township
Josh Walkerdine – Visitor
Karla Buckmaster – Bear Creek Township
Fred Foy – Bear Creek Township
Toni M. Drier – County Commissioner
Michael Banyai, M.D. – Visitor
Steve McDiarmid – Visitor
Earle and Linda Caldwell – Visitor
Judy Mays – Bear Creek Township
Nancy Stewart – Visitor
John Baker – West Traverse Township
John Eby – Maple River Township

Ron Furgeson – Resort Township
Robert Hofstetter – Visitor
Sheldon Buckmaster – Bear Creek Township
Bill Dohm - Little Traverse Township
Dennis Keiser – Bear Creek Township
Kathy Winter – Visitor
Bill Thomas – Visitor
Jamie Clark – Visitor
Pam Clark – Visitor
Beth Stewart – Visitor
Jonathon Meyer – Visitor

MINUTES: It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 27, 2017.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: The List of Accounts Payable, Voucher No. 1731, checks numbering from No. 43131 to No. 43219, in the amount of \$666,357.93 was presented for approval. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Sumner to approve accounts payable for payment of the same.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

PAYROLL: Voucher No. 1732 for Payroll No. 16, checks numbering from No. 51800 to No. 51860, in the amount of \$83,572.69 was presented for approval. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to approve payroll for payment of the same.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Bob Genson gave an update on progress of construction at the Levering Facility.
- b. Indian Garden Road Encroachment Issue has been postponed for two weeks based upon attorney recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. Karla Buckmaster presented written comments along with a copy of Brian Gutowski's email to Steve Crane dated August 3, 2017 – see attached.
- b. Several guest commented on Elmer's Gravel Pit and haul routes, safety concerns, gravel availability and pricing, long term road damage, alternative gravel pit sites, and alternative road construction through wetlands. The Road Commission Board and staff responded by clarifying the process for handling permits, safety requirements, finding materials for road construction, and proper handling of this issue by the Road Commission Board and what is handled at the local level.

It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams that Brian Gutowski sends a letter to Tammy Doernenburg at Emmet County Planning and Zoning, Bear Creek Township, and Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc. that clarifying the following:

1. Site distances and requirements of Emmet County Road Commission for a Commercial Driveway Permit would be met if Elmer's applies for one.
2. There has been a misunderstanding regarding the email sent to Steve Crane of Elmer's. Emmet County Road Commission has not officially endorsed approval for Elmer's Pit, but does acknowledge there is a need for gravel.

3. If permit is given, the exit from Elmer's Pit on Pickerel Lake Road is to use Bellmer Road to Graham Road.
4. Emmet County Road Commission would work with others in regards to wetland mitigation in an attempt to find an alternative route to Fochtman Industrial Park Drive.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- c. Dr. Michael Banyai questioned obstruction on Sylvan Avenue off of Fern Avenue and also Indian Garden Road issues.
- d. Ron Furgeson commented on Indian Garden Road and right of way issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. It was moved by Sumner, seconded by Williams to appoint Brian Gutowski as delegate for the Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions Annual Meeting September 15, 2017.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- b. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Sumner to vote for Incumbents Jesse Campbell, Alcona, Douglas Robidoux, Mason, Gerry Smigelski, Presque Isle, and nominee Tom Doty, Mackinac, for the positions open on the CRASIF Board of Trustees.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- c. It was moved by Williams, seconded by Sumner to award the North Conway Road Federal Aid Project 2018 design to Huron Engineering & Surveying, Inc.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

- d. Channel Road Reconstruction Project Bid decision was postponed until the next meeting.

- e. Haas Road Gravel Supply Bid for 23A Gravel was not received from any vendors so a call will go out for quotes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Northern Michigan Association of Road Commission's nominees are:
President – Frank Leiva, Iosco County
Vice President – Tony Casali, Isabella County
Secretary – Brenda Gordert, Midland County
CRA Board – Dave Pettersch, Gladwin County

ENGINEER-MANAGER'S REPORT – Gutowski stated a Safety Grant application has been submitted for 11 guardrail sites for 2019 and Federal Aid Lane Line painting for 220 miles of primary road, this year will be completed by Michigan Paving. County road lane line painting will be done by P.K. Contracting. Applications were taken for 2 Temporary Driver's positions and 1 was hired. Two Full-time positions were advertised in which 3 applications were received. It was moved by Zulski, seconded by Williams to hire all 3 applicants for full-time positions.

Ayes: Williams, Sumner, Zulski

Nays: None

Motion carried

Gutowski also gave an update on three bridge projects for 2018. Pickeral Lake Road over Minnehaha Creek, Woodland Road over Maple River, and Middle Road over Greenbriar Drive.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – Beckman reported on the status of several projects including State Road BIA Project, Mackinac Highway, Resort Pike Road, Atkins Road, Ecker Road, and the shortage of gravel and its impact on completing projects.

EQUIPMENT SUPERINTENDENT – Genson reported on the expected delivery dates of graders and tractors.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: Williams asked about the schedule for maintenance on primary roads.

Zulski inquired as to how quickly the new graders will be put into service once they are delivered as well as getting the new mowers into service quickly in order to make optimum use of the lease agreement. He also asked for clarification on Sylvan Avenue in the Roaring Brook Association ending at the high water mark or at the water's edge. Gutowski clarified that the road end has to be offered to the township first, then the DNR.

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Board of Emmet County Road Commissioners

If neither wants the property, it would go to the entire plat of property owners. Zulski mentioned the obligation to hold a public hearing on this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. John Eby - Maple River Township commented on offering land for wetland mitigation be clarified for the Emmet County Planning Commission.
- b. Toni Drier – Emmet County commented on lack of mowing and requested priority for intersections due to safety concerns.

With no further business, Mr. Zulski adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Lisa Kleeman – Finance Director/Clerk of the Board

Date

Karla Buckmaster, Bear Creek Township Resident: My comments are all regarding Brian Gutowski's August 3, 2017, e-mail/letter sent to Steve Crane of Elmers, who forwarded it to Tammy Doernenburg, Director of Emmet County Planning & Zoning, to be passed on to the Emmet County Planning Commission:

The letter stated in part: **"The Emmet County Road Commission supports Team Elmers proposed gravel pit on Pickerel Lake Road west of Fletcher Road in Bear Creek Township."** AND **"We encourage the Emmet County Planning Commission to approve the proposed gravel pit."**

- 1) I have searched the meeting minutes of the ECRC, for a motion or resolution stating "support of Elmer's proposed sand pit." I found none. I searched for mention of any discussion by the three Road Commissioners openly and publicly "supporting this letter of endorsement for Elmer's proposed sand pit." I found nothing. I have checked with Bear Creek Supervisor Denny Keiser if he knew anything about this "letter of support for Elmers proposed gravel pit" having been brought up at any ECRC meeting, because he attends all of the ECRC meetings. Denny was NOT aware of any of this transpiring at a meeting either.
- 2) I am not sure of any legalities, but if this decision actually was made by the Road Commissioners to send this letter but, the decision was not made in an open meeting... then was it made over the telephone, or how was it managed for the letter to say that the ECRC (as a whole~"we") supports Team Elmers proposed gravel pit?
- 3) Since when do our county taxpayers' dollars go to the ECRC, or ANY county department, to openly "take sides" in a county planning and zoning case, by endorsing a proposal, and to write a letter to that effect?
- 4) It is understandable that the ECRC should fulfill its function of determining if "site distance" is adequate for a driveway, if it is viable for outgoing truck trips to use the dangerous US 31/ Pickerel Lake intersection, and possible posting of warning signs... AND, yes the ECRC should report those findings with data: matter-of-factly, and without prejudice.
- 5) To state that "gravel sources are becoming scarce in Emmet County" is quite contrary to the fact that Manthei, Poquette, Flynn, and Daniel pits are all in the very near vicinity of Elmer's proposed pit, **PLUS** close to the ECRC's own pit with its new addition. Elmer's reported they have been completing many local projects, so obviously with the gravel access from the surrounding pits. Also, to insinuate that Elmer's proposed pit "would benefit taxpayers with lower gravel prices... to improve more miles of road"... attempts to totally negate the fact that as recently as April of 2017 the additional ECRC "Conway Gravel Pit" on Bellmer Road was okayed. So, I should think that gravel could not come any cheaper than the Emmet County Road Commission owning its own gravel for our county roads, especially with the new county pit located only about 3 miles or less, away from Elmer's proposed pit location!
- 6) This particular referenced ECRC "endorsement letter~taking sides" is a terrible travesty for anything having to do with a PUBLIC democratic governmental process, especially in a high profile case such as this proposed gravel pit which presents various "serious consequences" for MANY MANY people!

NOTE: Please attach a copy of this page of comments, along with this copy of Brian's letter, to the ECRC minutes for this meeting of 08/10/17. I will also be forwarding a copy of my comments to Tammy Doernenburg Director of Emmet County Planning & Zoning, to be passed on to the Emmet County Planning Commission

Tammy Doornenburg

From: Steve Crane <scrane@teamelmers.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Eric Ritchie
Cc: Troy Broad
Subject: FW: Proposed Pickerel Lake Road Gravel Site

From: Brian Gutowski [<mailto:emmetcrc@emmetcrc.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Steve Crane
Subject: Proposed Pickerel Lake Road Gravel Site

Steve,

The Emmet County Road Commission supports Team Elmers proposed gravel pit on Pickerel Lake Road west of Fletcher Road in Bear Creek Township.

The Road Commission has identified several locations on Pickerel Lake Road for the property where the site distance will exceed 1,000 feet which is more than the 500 feet recommended site distance for a 55 mph road. Team Elmers has agreed to place their driveway at one of those locations. This leaves more than adequate time for a vehicle travelling the road to react to a traffic movement from the pit and leaves adequate time for a truck leaving the pit to avoid conflicts with approaching vehicles.

We support Team Elmers proposal to require their trucks to head east upon leaving the gravel pit to avoid the Pickerel Lake Road and U.S.31 intersection. Team Elmers has also proposed to install truck crossing signs on Pickerel Lake Road to warn oncoming vehicles of the potential operation.

Gravel sources are becoming scarce in Emmet County. The gravel has to be extracted where it is found. The Road Commission and townships put \$4-\$6 million into road improvements every year. With better sources of gravel in Emmet County, the citizens of Emmet County will benefit with lower gravel prices therefore making our dollars improve more miles of road.

Team Elmers has done several projects for the Emmet County Road Commission and have done an excellent job on those projects. They have a local office and we encourage hiring local companies on our projects.

We encourage the Emmet County Planning Commission to approve the proposed gravel pit.

Brian A. Gutowski, P.E.
Engineer-Manager
Emmet County Road Commission
231-347-8142
emmetcrc@emmetcrc.com