

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