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## *Important Dates:*

December 12  
9:00am Board Meeting

December 26  
9:00am Board Meeting

## *Office Hours:*

**Monday - Friday**

**7:30am – 4:00pm**

14110 Lakeshore Drive  
P.O. Box 739  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
(616) 842-5400  
[www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com)

Brett Laughlin  
Managing Director

## Road Salt Chemistry

As the Road Commission performs winter maintenance, salt materials are placed onto the roadway through a spreader mechanism located on the back of the plow truck.

Distributing the salt over freshly plowed surfaces (typically the center of the road) allows it to be placed closer to the road surface.

Salt is most effective after snow has accumulated on top of it and the temperature is 20°

Fahrenheit or higher. Under these conditions, the salt and snow will mix, creating a brine that melts the snow into slush that can be plowed off the pavement.

Abrasives (sand) are often added to the salt mixture for traction.

If the temperature is below 20°F, the salt will have difficulty melting the snow and ice, so other methods are used.

It is a common practice to apply premixed brine to

bridge and road surfaces prior to ice events.

Applying the brine directly to the pavement removes the melting aspect of the dry salt mixture. Since the brine has already reached its liquid state, it will immediately begin the melting process.

Calcium chloride or other liquid treatments can also be added to enhance the melting of ice and snow.

The Road Commission may change the mixture of salt and additives based on temperature.

## Winter Maintenance Markers

Why does the Road Commission place wooden stakes on some streets before winter?

The Road Commission installs wooden stakes to mark the edge of pavement prior to the first snow event.

The stakes are typically installed at intersections or curves that are difficult for the snow plow drivers to judge when snow-covered. These stakes may break off after a couple of plowing operations, but they do serve a purpose in

establishing appropriate plowing limits.

Recognizing that property owners may be concerned with possible parkway damage resulting from our snow removal activities, the Road Commission approves on a seasonal basis, installation of snow plow markers within the right-of-way by abutting property owners.

Typically the markers should be placed a minimum of 2' from the pavement edge and never closer than area mail box supports.

The markers should consist of an aluminum support and reflector commonly available at hardware stores, or wooden stakes not larger than 1"x2"x30" high. The top 9" of the wooden stakes should be covered with fluorescent orange paint for visibility.

Maintenance of the markers and their spring time removal is the property owner's responsibility.

Please contact the Road Commission with any other questions.

## New Faces in North Holland



Shown above are the new employees at the North Holland garage. Left to right. Front row: Michael Seinen and Eric Nagelkirk Back row: Richard Powers, Nick Parrott and Mike Bruins

Shown in the photo on the left are new employees at the North Holland garage. Richard Powers was hired as a mechanic, while Nick Parrott, Mike Bruins, Mike Seinen, and Eric Nagelkirk were hired on the Road Crew.

Richard worked for Turf Services for over 6 years operating and maintaining various types of equipment. He resides in West Olive with his wife and young son.

Nick worked at Al's Excavating operating various equipment and plowing snow for MDOT the past 3 winter seasons. He lives in Fennville with his wife and young son.

Mike Bruins has 22 years of excavating experience and recently worked at DeSal Excavating. He lives in Zeeland with his wife and twin daughters.

Mike Seinen worked the

last two years at Site Work Solutions as a common laborer. He resides in the Zeeland area.

Eric worked for DeWind DeWatering operating various equipment. He also has 10 years experience in the concrete industry. Eric lives in Hudsonville.

Please welcome all 5 great additions to the Road Commission.

## Safe Roads for Everyone

The Road Commission would like to encourage all drivers to use all available information when making winter travel plans.

However, even the latest, most accurate information is not a substitute for good judgment. If weather conditions appear to be too severe to travel, they most likely are.

There are several television and radio

station broadcasts and websites that provide current and projected local weather conditions.

In addition, you can call the Michigan State Police Winter Travel Advisory at (800) 381-8477 or visit their website at [www.michtip.state.mi.us/rw/home.htm](http://www.michtip.state.mi.us/rw/home.htm) for current road conditions in Michigan.

The Winter Travel

Advisory operates from late November or early December through March 30th. It is updated twice a day or as information concerning travel conditions is received.

Please do not call your local police agency for road conditions during a storm. It is very important that they keep their phone lines open for emergencies.



Shown above is Heath Brinker, a recent hire in the Engineering Department.

## Welcoming a New Engineer

While working on his Civil Engineering degree from Michigan Tech, Heath worked for 4 summers in the Engineering Department at the Road Commission.

After his college graduation, Heath worked

at Latitude Engineering & Surveying, and then CPS, Ltd. as a Project engineer gaining valuable design and construction experience in various road and site development projects.

Heath was hired at the

Road Commission in early October as a Civil Project Engineer for the Engineering Department.

He now lives in the Spring Lake area with his wife and 2 young sons.

Please welcome Heath!