

In This Issue:

- Road Funding Crisis
- Potholes “Spring” into Effect
- Seasonal Weight Restrictions
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Business Degree at Night

Important Dates:

March 11, 9:00am
Board Meeting

March 24, 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

Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

Road Funding Crisis

Have you ever thought; "I pay property taxes, why can't I get my road paved?" Actually, to the surprise of most people, the Road Commission does not receive any of your property taxes. Our direct revenues come from the State through the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF).

The MTF is comprised of the state fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees. A portion of these funds are distributed to all Road Commissions using a somewhat complex, state

legislated formula based on road mileage, population, and vehicle registrations.

As you fuel your vehicle, you are paying a fixed 19 cents per gallon towards maintaining every public road in Michigan. This tax has not changed since 1997, even though the price per gallon has increased.

As the cost of fuel continues to rise, there will be more of a demand for ride sharing, fuel efficient vehicles, and alternative

fuel choices. As a result, it is anticipated that road revenues will continue to decline.

The Road Commission relies on other funding sources which include federal and state programs. Also, some Townships participate in local road improvements, which would utilize your property taxes.

Let's hope the new State legislation can increase the road revenue stream so we can better maintain and improve our roads.

Potholes “Spring” into Effect

Winter is almost over but as the warmer weather starts to develop, so do the potholes.

So what is a pothole?

Over time roadways deteriorate and develop cracks and other defects. Snow and moisture pass through the cracks and seep into the underlying gravel base and sub-soils.

The cold weather causes freezing and expansion of the moist gravel and sub-soils. As a result the asphalt surface rises up in places in the road. This is

called frost heave.

In the Spring, the temperature begins to rise, the ground thaws, and the gravel and sub-soils settle leaving air pockets which weaken the pavement.

Vehicles driving over the air pockets and weakened pavement force the asphalt surface to collapse, creating a pothole.

How are potholes fixed?

The Road Commission repairs potholes with 2

methods. The first is simply shoveling a cold mix asphalt material into the hole. This is very economical but does not provide long term results.

The Road Commission also uses specialized equipment that blows out the hole with air and places layers of asphalt emulsion and stone to fill up the hole. This is a more timely method but provides a longer lasting patch.

Please contact our office at 616-842-5400 if you notice a pothole.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions



Jerry Olman and Jody Carter serve as the Road Commission Weighmasters.

Every year during the late Winter or early Spring when seasonal thawing softens the roadbed and makes the road surface susceptible to damage from heavy truck loads, most County roads have legal load limits placed on them called Seasonal Weight Restrictions.

County roads that are not constructed to "All Season" standards are subject to the Seasonal

Weight Restrictions with a reduction in allowable loading and speeds of trucks.

"All Season" roads are those that have been designed and built with additional strength and width to withstand truck traffic loads all year long, and thus they are not subject to the reduced loading during Seasonal Weight Restrictions.

The Special Services Department at the Road Commission enforces the Weight Restrictions with certified staff. Most fines as a result of violations are collected by the court and given to the Public Library system.

More information about Seasonal Weight Restrictions, Truck Operators Map, and All Season roads can be found on our website.



Crews from the Grand Haven garage patch pot holes on the Green Street bridge in Robinson Township.

Safe Roads for Everyone

The installation of the appropriate traffic control devices; such as, regulatory and warning signs, pavement markings, and traffic signals; can contribute to providing a safe road environment.

The Road Commission has the responsibility to place traffic controls at locations that have been evaluated and meet a specific list of warrants.

The warrants and guidelines for specific traffic controls are found in the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

To be effective, traffic controls should meet five basic requirements:

1. **Fulfill a need,**
2. **Command attention,**

3. **Convey a clear, simple meaning,**
4. **Command the respect of road users, and**
5. **Give adequate time for proper response.**

Please contact our office at 616-842-5400 if you believe an intersection or other area of a county road should be evaluated.



Congratulations to Joe Bush on his Business Management Degree.

Business Degree at Night

While attending night classes for 2 ½ years, Joe Bush's hard work has finally paid off. Let's congratulate Joe as he received his Associates Degree in Business Management from Cornerstone University this past December.

This was accomplished while Joe kept a full-time job and balanced his family life with his wife Laura and daughters, Lindsey and Emily.

Joe currently works in the Engineering Department and has been employed

by the Road Commission for over 10 years.

Joe also likes to be active in his community. He has been an Olive Township Trustee for over 4 years and was just placed on the Township Zoning Board of Appeals.