

In This Issue:

- 2015 Road Commission Board
- Hmm.....Which Roads to Pave?
- How Many Plows Can a Plow Truck Plow?
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Meet Your New Road Commissioner

Important Dates:

February 5, 9:00am
Board Meeting

February 19, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm

14110 Lakeshore Drive
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Commissioners:

Tom Bird
Tom Elhart
Tim Grifhorst
Jim Miedema
Betty Gajewski

Managing Director
Brett Laughlin

2015 Road Commission Board

The Ottawa County Road Commission is governed by a five-member Board, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners for six-year terms. At least one member is appointed every two years.

Although the Road Commission Board is appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, the Road Commission is separate from county general government.

The Road Commission Board establishes policies

and administers the annual budget.

The Road Commission Board members from left to right as shown in the photo below are:

Betty Gajewski resides in Tallmadge Township and is a new Board member.

Jim Miedema resides in Jamestown Township and has been a Board member since 2013.

Tom Bird resides in Park Township and has been a Board member since

2011.

Tom Elhart resides in the City of Grand Haven and has been a Board member since 2011.

Tim Grifhorst resides in Tallmadge Township and has been a Board member since 2011.



Hmm.....Which Roads to Pave?

How are roads selected for paving?

The Road Commission continuously evaluates road conditions to identify replacement, repair, and maintenance needs.

Project lists are developed with priorities based on the evaluation of data such as:

- PASER Road Ratings
- Traffic Volumes
- Capacity and Congestion Issues
- Accident History
- Maintenance History
- Funding Sources

Each year the Road Commission gathers input from local governmental officials, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), and the general public to determine improvement needs and develop a 6-year Strategic Improvement Plan.

The current 6-year Strategic Improvement Plan can be found at our website, www.ottawacorc.com.

Improvement needs not included in the Strategic Improvement Plan are typically addressed

through the recurring, day-to-day maintenance activities by the Road Commission.

Since 100% of the costs associated with resurfacing or other surface treatments applied to **Subdivision Streets** have been paid by the Townships and/or residents, the Townships determine which Subdivision Streets are selected.

The 2015 subdivision resurfacing and improvement programs are currently being developed.

How Many Plows Can a Plow Truck Plow?



The above photo taken by Roger Olthof shows a recently completed truck for the North Holland Garage.

The Road Commission is extremely fortunate to have employees that are able to maintain and keep in working operation the existing fleet of 84 plow trucks.

This is no easy task with an expectation that trucks are to last over 20 years.

Over the past few years, the Road Commission has replaced 4 plow trucks in the fleet per year.

Specifications are written for both single and tandem axle configurations and bids are taken for the cab and chassis portion of the trucks.

Once the new cab and chassis arrive, Road Commission employees fabricate and outfit the new trucks with underbody blades, boxes, and the rest of the hydraulic, mechanical,

and electrical operating systems.

In 2014, the total cost to completely outfit a plow truck was \$195,500 for a single axle truck and \$216,500 for a tandem axle truck. Costs include the cab and chassis, parts, and labor.

The Road Commission will continue to monitor truck maintenance with respect to dependability.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Can salt be put on roads and bridges before it snows?

Putting salt on the road surface prior to a snowfall generally will waste time and money. Salt will not adhere to a dry road during application. The portion that manages to land in the right location is subject to wind or traffic that will blow or push it off the road before it can do its job.

Salt is most effective after snow has accumulated and the temperature is 20° Fahrenheit or higher. Under these conditions, the salt and snow will mix, melting snow into a slush that can be plowed off the pavement. This melting action generally occurs within two hours, less if traffic is present.

If the temperature is below 20°F, the salt will have difficulty melting the snow

and ice, so other methods are typically used.

Abrasives (like sand) are often put down with the salt for traction. Calcium chloride or other liquid treatments can be added to enhance the ability to melt the ice and snow.

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



Shown above is new Road Commissioner, Betty Gajewski.

Meet Your New Road Commissioner

Betty Gajewski was recently appointed by the County Board of Commissioners to serve as a Road Commissioner on the Road Commission Board.

Betty brings her experiences of serving on

the Ottawa County Planning Commission, Tree Legacy Committee, Solid Waste Planning Committee, Road Salt Commission, and the Tallmadge Township Planning Commission.

Betty was also an owner

of the Great Harvest Bread Company and is currently a consultant for Grand Valley State University.

The Road Commission welcomes new Road Commissioner Betty Gajewski.