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## Important Dates:

December 11  
9:00am Board Meeting  
December 24  
9:00am Board Meeting

## Office Hours:

**Monday - Friday**

**7:30am – 4:00pm**

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Tom Elhart  
Tim Grifhorst  
Jim Miedema  
Tom Palarz

Managing Director:  
Brett Laughlin

## Countywide Road Millage Passes

The Road Commission wishes to thank the Ottawa County residents for the passage of the countywide road millage of one-half mill for ten years.

The millage is only one piece of the puzzle to help improve the county road system. It is anticipated that the millage will generate 5 million dollars annually, with a split of approximately 4 million dollars to the Road Commission and 1 million dollars to the cities and village.

Revenues generated by the millage will be distributed by the County Treasurer directly to the Road Commission, as well as the 7 cities and villages in the county. The County Treasurer anticipates the millage will be added to the summer tax bills with a disbursement of a majority of the revenues in October of each year.

Countywide road millage funds will only be utilized for the purpose of reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance

of roads in Ottawa County.

Millage funds will not be spent on routine maintenance activities such as snow removal, pothole filling, pavement marking, roadside mowing, tree removals, traffic road signs, etc. or on any administrative or operation costs, facility maintenance or improvements, or any legacy costs.

The Road Commission appreciates the support and vote of confidence.

## Millage Project List Available for Comment

The Road Commission is pleased to present a draft of the 2015-2020 Countywide Road Millage Proposed Projects list for review and comment.

A list of proposed countywide road millage funded projects can be found on our website at [www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com) and has been developed based on pavement condition, traffic volumes, capacity and congestion issues, accident history, maintenance issues, and/or other funding sources.

Since 100% of the millage

revenues generated within a township will only be spent on road improvements within that township, there will be some carryover balances in order to properly fund a proposed project.

In order to finalize the 2015-2020 Countywide Road Millage Proposed Projects list, the Road Commission requests input and comments from local government officials and the general public.

A public hearing has been scheduled on **February 5, 2015**, 10:00am, at the Road Commission office

to receive input and comments. Written comments are encouraged and can be received any time prior to the public hearing.

It is the intent of the Road Commission to re-evaluate, modify, and approve countywide road millage projects on an annual basis in accordance with our Strategic Improvement Plan process.

More information about the Strategic Improvement Plan and process can be found on our website.

## Plows Prepared for Winter



*Invisible "black ice" completely covers a roadway. Would you be able to tell it was there if you were driving on this road? Most likely you would not until your car began to slide!*

When the snow starts to fall, the Road Commission will be ready at the helm.

When snow storms hit, Road Commission crews will be out there plowing and salting to ensure the roads remain as safe as possible. But it's not just major snow storms that require us to crank up our salt trucks and plows. In

fact, freezing rain or a light dusting of snow that turns to ice can require our full force of salt trucks and plows for hours on end.

To ensure we are prepared when bad weather hits, the weather is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the winter using several weather services.

However, preparation doesn't just start in the hours before a storm arrives. Weeks before the first flake of snow falls, crews make sure all equipment is in good working order, and drivers make dry runs on their routes.

The Road Commission works diligently from fall to spring to keep roads plowed. We are prepared.

## Safe Roads for Everyone

**Black ice** is a thin layer of ice on roadways that appears identical to wet or even dry pavement.

Because of its deceptive appearance, it can create hazardous driving conditions as vehicles slide suddenly and unexpectedly over the icy patches.

Black ice forms when the air temperature is warmer than the temperature of

the pavement.

You can prepare yourself for black ice by paying attention to the air temperature before you get into your car. If temperatures are at or below 32°F (0° C) and precipitation (rain or snow) has been present, expect roads to be icy!

The Road Commission will place liquid anti-icing materials on road and

bridge surfaces when the temperatures are expected to be between 15°F and 35°F.

If the road or bridge surface is wet, then a 60/40 salt to sand mixture is treated with a liquid material (called pre-wetting) and then placed on the road or bridge surface.

Once applied, both treatments can last up to 72 hours.



*The above photo shows the placement of a bituminous wedge in operation.*

## Wedging More Savings

In most cases, cracking, raveling, settling, and pot holes begin to first occur along the edge of a road.

In an effort to repair the pavement edge, Road Commission crews have developed an innovative maintenance method.

First, a layer of bituminous material (hot mix asphalt) is placed along the road edge by a truck.

A motor grader is utilized to smooth out the material to a uniform slope and width. The grader is followed up by a steel

drum roller that provides compaction of the bituminous material.

This method of wedging can significantly prolong the life of a pavement at a relatively low life cycle cost.