

In This Issue:

- Road Commission Board Expands
- Keeping Roads in "Good Shape"
- Using Old Tires for Plowing
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Fabricating Trucks and Equipment

Important Dates:

February 10, 9:00am
Board Meeting

February 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) 852-5400
www.ottawacorc.com

Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

Road Commission Board Expands

In 2006, the State of Michigan approved the County's ability to expand a Road Commission Board from 3 to 5 members. The primary purpose of this change was to provide better representation for all residents living in different areas of the county.

On November 23, 2010 the Ottawa County Board approved the expansion of the Road Commission Board with an effective date of January 1, 2011. Ottawa County is the 25th

county to expand the Road Commission Board from 3 to 5 members.

The Road Commission Board members are shown below (left to right):

Tom Bird resides in Park Township and is a new Board member.

Tom Palarz resides in Grand Haven Township and has been a Board member since 2009.

David Vander Kooi resides in the City of Zeeland and has been a

Board member since 2001.

Tom Elhart resides in the City of Grand Haven and is a new Board member.

Tim Grifhorst resides in Tallmadge Township and is a new Board member.



Keeping Roads in "Good Shape"

In the past, the Road Commission concentrated maintenance and resurfacing efforts on the roads in the "poorest" condition. With the increasing costs for construction and the decline in revenues, it was determined that this approach would lead to the gradual deterioration of the road network and require reconstruction on roads earlier than anticipated.

A more economical way of maintaining the road network is to lengthen the time between construction

and reconstruction. The preventative maintenance improvement program was developed to add surface life to the roads in "good" or "fair" condition, while the "poor" condition roads could be managed.

The Road Commission has implemented several preventative maintenance treatments to keep roads in Ottawa County in "Good Shape".

Since 2006, the Road Commission has provided a Crack Sealing program to help prevent water infiltration into the

pavement section of both primary and local roads.

In addition, the Road Commission has implemented a Seal Coat program (chip seal) since 2008 to provide a new surface for local roads.

Both programs have helped protect, preserve, and extend pavement life.

2011 will be no different as the Road Commission will be soliciting bids from qualified contractors for the Seal Coat and Crack Sealing programs.

Using Old Tires for Plowing



Shown above is a rubber tire that has been cut and installed on a wing plow blade.

With the increased cost of fuel and materials and the decline in revenues, the Road Commission is always looking at innovative ways to lower winter maintenance costs while providing a good level of service.

Over the past few years, side mount wing plows have been added to seventeen trucks within our fleet. These wings range from 7 to 9 feet in

width and enable our snow removal coverage to widths of up to 15 feet. On many roads this eliminates the need for a second pass.

To protect the wing plow investment, rubber edges have been utilized on the bottom of the wing. The rubber edges are easy to replace and help follow the shoulder contours with minimal gouging.

New rubber edges from the factory cost around \$1,400 each. However, the Road Commission has experimented in using old tires that have been cut into strips and installed on the wing plow blade.

This is the first winter season with the trial but we have seen positive initial results. Plus, there is virtually no cost with the added benefit of recycling old tires.



Best wishes to Larry Bruursema. He served 18 yrs as a Road Commissioner.

Safe Roads for Everyone

The Ottawa County Road Commission is responsible for providing safe and maintained roadways for vehicles and pedestrians. Dead overhanging limbs or dead trees adjacent to county roads are often removed to insure safety for the public. Aerial bucket trucks are utilized to accomplish this work.

The Road Commission currently has two aerial

bucket trucks (High Rangers) that can reach approximately 45 feet and one that can reach approximately 30 feet. The smaller truck is used to erect and maintain regulatory, warning, guide, and street name signs.

Road Commission employees that use the aerial bucket trucks are trained and certified to safely operate the equipment.

Shown below is Randy Nagelkirk from the North Holland garage receiving emergency training for the aerial bucket truck.



Congratulations to Kent Rubley. He retires after 12 years as the Managing Director.

Fabricating Trucks and Equipment

The Road Commission is extremely lucky to have employees that have unique fabricating skills that help save time and money.

For example: The fabricators outfit new Plow Trucks with underbody

blades, boxes, and the rest of the mechanical and electrical operating systems.

In addition, the fabricators constantly make parts to repair and maintain the fleet of trucks and equipment.

The Road Commission fabricators are John Berens and Tom Langland out of the Grand Haven garage; Roger Helder out of the Hudsonville garage; Shawn McWilliams out of the Coopersville garage; and Jerry Brouwer out of the North Holland garage.