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Important Dates:

August 8, 9:00am
Board Meeting

August 22, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Polish Delegates Seek Knowledge

Recently, a small delegation of specialists in road and bridge construction from Poland visited the Road Commission.

The delegation was in the USA to study developments in technology, including vehicle identification.

While in Michigan, the delegation group also had visits planned to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, MDOT, Governor Snyder's office, and the

Grand Rapids city planner's office.

The chair of the delegation, Andrzej Urbanik (shown on the left in the photo below) is on the scientific board of the Polish Road and Bridge Institute.



The other delegates shown in the photo were technical specialists Piotr Bardadyn and Janusz Wrobel.

The delegation was very interested in how the Road Commission, working on a smaller than national scale, functioned.

After their Michigan tour, the group had meetings in Washington DC, and planned on attending the Inventions and New Products Expositions (INPEX) conference in Pittsburg.

Superintendent Passes Torch

With over 33 years of public service at the Road Commission, Operations Superintendent Jeff Johnson (shown on the right in the photo below) retires.



Jeff started his career in 1979 as a common

laborer, advanced to the Grand Haven District Supervisor in 2001, and was promoted to the Operations Superintendent in 2010.

Jeff resides in Grand Haven with his wife Kathy, and enjoys camping, spending time with family, and church functions.

Jeff recently became an ordained minister at Watermark Church.

Ryan Kemppainen (shown on the left in the photo) has been selected to fill the "big shoes" as the new

Operations Superintendent.

After obtaining his Civil Engineering Degree from Michigan Tech in 2001, Ryan was hired as a Project Engineer at the Road Commission where he has designed and inspected many road and bridge projects.

Ryan lives in Holland with his wife, Deb, and his two children. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and golf.

Congratulations to both Jeff and Ryan.

Crack Sealing Contract



Shown above is crack sealing work performed by Scodeller Construction.

Every asphalt surface develops cracks over time. If left untreated, these cracks can lead to serious road deterioration as water penetrates the pavement and weakens the road base. As the base weakens, more cracks form in the pavement. Potholes then form, and the roadway steadily disintegrates. All of this can lead to expensive maintenance and reconstruction.

One of the most cost-effective and practical methods of prolonging the life of any pavement is to seal the cracks to prevent continued surface and base damage.

The construction process includes cleaning the cracks or joints with compressed air and other tools to remove all loose dirt, vegetation, and foreign debris. A rubberized asphalt mixture

is placed within the crack or joint, and is then covered with an overband strip applied on the road surface (typically 3" wide).

Scodeller Construction was awarded the 2013 crack sealing contract. In collaboration with the City of Hudsonville and the Townships of Grand Haven, Holland, and Park various city and subdivision streets were included in the contract.

Safe Roads for Everyone

One potential roadway hazard is vegetation. Grass, weeds, and brush can obscure or limit a driver's view of traffic control devices, approaching vehicles, wildlife and livestock, and pedestrians and bicycles.

In an effort to control roadside vegetation, the Road Commission roadside mowing practice is as follows:

- Primary roads are mowed twice a year;
- Local paved roads are mowed twice a year;
- Local gravel roads are mowed once a year;
- Subdivision streets are not mowed.
- Clear vision areas at intersections are mowed as needed.
- State Highways are mowed as determined by MDOT.

To inquire about roadside mowing, please contact our office at 616-842-5400 or utilize our online service request form.



Shown above is the new North Holland mechanic Robert Franklin.

New Mechanic in North Holland

Robert Franklin was recently hired as the second shift mechanic for the North Holland garage.

Robert spent most of his life in the Upper Peninsula working in the logging industry. He owned a log trucking company for

seventeen years and has also worked for a logging transportation service.

Robert's knowledge and experience of equipment repair and maintenance will be a great asset for the Road Commission.

He has recently relocated to Zeeland with his finance, Kristy and enjoys hunting and fishing.

Please welcome Robert to the Road Commission.