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## Important Dates:

January 8  
9:00am Board Meeting  
January 22  
9:00am Board Meeting

## Office Hours:

**Monday - Friday**  
**7:30am – 4:00pm**

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Tom Bird  
Tom Elhart  
Tim Grifhorst  
Jim Miedema  
Betty Gajewski

Managing Director:  
Brett Laughlin

## Paving Completed on Ottawa Beach Road

Despite early extreme weather conditions and snow accumulation that caused an unavoidable delay, the paving of Ottawa Beach Road from 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue was completed in early December.

The project included the reconstruction and realignment of the intersection at 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the lowering of almost 100 manhole structures, milling the existing road surface, re-raising the manhole structures, and placing a 2

inch course of asphalt over the entire length.

The project required the relocation of many utilities and prompted Township sanitary force main improvements that required coordination between many contractors to accomplish their respective work.



The placement of the asphalt was in accordance with 2012 MDOT Standard Specifications for Construction. During paving, inspectors verified that the surface was prepared properly, the surface temperature was at or above the minimum allowed, and the as-placed asphalt exceeded minimum temperature requirements.

In the spring, the contractor will complete restoration and any items that need correction or repair as determined by the Road Commission.

## Cold Weather Paving

With the recent paving of Ottawa Beach Road, a question often asked is:

**"Will hot asphalt placed in cold weather perform adequately?"**

An industry survey conducted and analyzed by a group of researchers at Auburn University (\*) revealed the prevalence of this situation.

The responses showed that in the north-central region of the country, up to 5 percent of all projects have asphalt placed outside the normal paving

season of April 15 to November 15, and an even higher percentage are placed in adverse weather conditions overall.

The challenge of cold weather asphalt paving is to achieve adequate compaction. There is a general consensus that, if adequate density is obtained, the pavement will perform as expected.

Thin asphalt courses are at the greatest risk of low density and poor performance when placed in cold weather. Asphalt courses 2 inches thick or

greater are generally adequate to be constructed with little change in normal procedures

Experience has shown that asphalt paving can be successfully accomplished in cold weather without compromising the performance of the pavement. The goal is to properly clean the surface, apply an adequate bonding agent, and place and compact the asphalt mix while it is still in the temperature range (275 to 175 degrees F) for compatibility.

*\*Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement Construction in Adverse Conditions - An Industry Survey. Dr. David Timm, Dr. Mary Stroup-Gardiner and William E. Barrett, Department of Civil Engineering, Auburn University*

## A Half Century of Public Service



*Joan resides in Grand Haven with her cat, Bella, and is enjoying quilting and remodeling her home during her well-deserved retirement.*

After more than 50 years of public service at the Road Commission, Special Services Clerk Joan Former has retired.

Joan began working at the Road Commission on April 13, 1964 as a Receptionist. Over the next 42½ years, she held other positions in the Permits, Accounting and finally the Special Services Departments until her retirement in December of 2006.

Then in February of 2007, Joan returned to the Road Commission on a part time basis to help out the Special Services Department. She held the department together until her re-retirement this past November after serving nearly 8 more years.

Over those 50 years, Joan was a part of many changes at the Road Commission. Shortly after her start, the Road Commission constructed a

garage in Hudsonville, which became its fourth. Then in 1988, Joan helped move the Grand Haven office/garage facility to our current location on Lakeshore Drive.

Joan adapted from handwriting and manual typewriters to the computers, facsimile machines, and copiers of today. She was also adept at a now-waning skill known as shorthand.

Congratulations Joan!

## Environmental Coordinator Passes the Stick



*Steve VanHoeven receives the Watershed Stakeholder of the Year Award from Steve Bulthuis of the MACC.*

Environmental Coordinator Steve VanHoeven has retired after 14 years of public service at the Road Commission.

Prior to that, Steve also devoted 14 years at the Drain Commissioner's office – twelve of which were as acting Drain Commissioner.

A naturalist at heart, Steve's position as Environmental Coordinator was no mistake. Steve was passionate about the environment, and he knew the route of every rain drop that fell in Ottawa County. His legacy of improving the quality of life in Ottawa County will always be remembered.

Steve was recently recognized for his hard work by the Macatawa

Coordinating Council (MACC) as the Watershed Stakeholder of the Year Award.

In his retirement, Steve will be spending more time with his wife, Maria, as well as fulfilling the duty of family taxi for his 4 active children and 3 grandchildren. Steve also plans to fit time in to study Spanish, play the trumpet, garden, and bike ride.

The Road Commission thanks Steve for his dedication in public service and wishes him a long and happy retirement.

Jerry Olman has been selected to take Steve's place as Environmental Coordinator.

Jerry came to the Road Commission in June of 1998 as Special Services

Aide. Besides monitoring utility and construction permits, Jerry has served as Assistant Weighmaster for the past 14 years, and has also been an active member representing the Road Commission in the Michigan Utilities Damage Prevention Association (MUDPA).

Jerry has been eager to take on the duties as Environmental Coordinator, and his work ethic and attention to detail are great assets.

Jerry is a resident of Norton Shores with his wife, Merri, and their dog, Molly. During his spare time, Jerry enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, taking trips to northern Michigan, and spending time with his nephew.

Congratulations to both Steve and Jerry!



*In the above photo on the left is Jerry Olman and on the right is Steve VanHoeven.*