

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners began their annual meetings with township officials in the Road Commission offices north of Stephenson on Monday, January 28, 2013.

Chair Kakuk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following persons present or absent.

PRESENT: William Anderson, Roger Betzinger, Anthony Kakuk, Darrell Moilanen and Lisa Savord. Also present were Robert Hanson-MCRC Stephenson District Foreman and Raymond Better-MCRC Powers District Foreman.

ABSENT: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **FAITHORN TOWNSHIP**

(6:00 p.m.) Present for Faithorn Township were Treasurer Renee Augustine, Clerk Kathy Branz, and Trustee Bill DeVoe.

Moilanen welcomed the township officials and told them to please call the road commission anytime they had a question about the roads in their township.

Moilanen stated that North Lake Road West had been brushed the prior year and would be monitored in the spring.

Moilanen reported that countywide work in the upcoming year would include stump removal in areas that were brushed out in the past, pavement markings on local roads and at railroad crossings, and replacement of signs on primary roads and at railroad crossings, along with crack filling where needed. In Faithorn Township CR577 & CR388 will be shouldered after spring breakup, and CR577, from the Dickinson County line to 36 Road is scheduled to be chip sealed by mid-August.

Clerk Branz talked about the grading she had observed on Bird Road. Moilanen explained that there was some turnover in the personnel that operated the graders at that time, and also the new graders are operated with joy sticks, rather than a steering wheel, which took a little time for the operators to get used to.

Trustee DeVoe asked if a Stop sign should be erected on State Road at the railroad crossing. Moilanen replied people were required by law to yield at the railroad crossings and that usually a Stop sign did not improve safety.

Clerk Branz asked about the mess that had been left on the road side on South Lake Drive. Moilanen stated that it wasn't the road commission's crew that had cut in that area. A private contractor had done the cutting without permission of the landowner and due to the dispute the area had not been cleaned up.

Faithorn Township officials and Robert Hanson left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

### **MEYER TOWNSHIP**

(6:30 p.m.) Present for Meyer Township were Supervisor Robert Gurgall, Clerk Beth Bertolini and Trustee Pat Dani. Also present were township residents Lois Hall and Gwen Salmi.

Moilanen welcomed the township officials and told them to please call the road commission anytime they had a question about the roads in their township.

Moilanen reported that countywide work in the upcoming year would include stump removal in areas that were brushed out in the past, pavement markings on local roads and at railroad crossings, and replacement of signs on primary roads and at railroad crossings, along with crack filling where needed. Supervisor Gurgall stated that the township would like to have the centerline painted on First Street in Hermansville and they were also considering parallel parking stripes.

Supervisor Gurgall asked if the Handicap sign could be removed on Vega Road as it was no longer needed, and also if the road could be ditched and have gravel added in the area past the new chip seal to the intersection of 44 Lane. Moilanen will have the sign removed.

A discussion was held regarding the drainage on West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. It was noted that the driveways have no culverts and that the shoulder is higher than the road. Supervisor Gurgall also stated that he had received complaints that the curves on the end of West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street by US 2 were slippery and that there is a steep drop off if you were to slide into the ditch there, possibly needing guardrail. Moilanen will check on this area. Mr. Gurgall also asked for a cost estimate to chip seal West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from Park Avenue to US 2, and also M3 Road.

Supervisor Gurgall asked about stump removal on Kluba Lane where the brush had been removed and also if fill could be added to the road at the second swamp. Moilanen stated that a stump grinder would be rented in the spring to remove the stumps there and elsewhere in the county as needed. In regards to adding fill to the road it was noted that the road is only about 12 feet wide in this area, with swamp on both sides, so it would be too narrow to fill. A better option may be to add geogrid to the area. The two residents attending the meeting, Lois Hall and Gwen Salmi, stated that they both lived on Kluba Lane and were not satisfied with the services provided there.

Supervisor Gurgall presented the board with a list of other items that the township would like the road commission to address, including rough areas on Park Avenue, South Main Street and Anderson Street; a need for gravel on Snuff Box Road; and areas of CR579. The township would also like to have fill put in the swamp area of 40 Mile Road. It was also noted that there was no street name sign for 40 Mile Road. Moilanen replied that once the township purchased the sign, the road commission would install it.

It was noted that the road into the Hermansville Lake Park used to be plowed past the Sportsman's Club by the road commission years ago, and could we start plowing it again. Moilanen stated that he would check into what could be done to clear access to the Sportsman's Club without going into the park area.

Mr. Gurgall also asked if the intersections at the highway could be sanded heavier.

Meyer Township officials and residents left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **GOURLEY TOWNSHIP**

(7:05 p.m.) Supervisor Stephen Wery, Clerk Cindy Berger, Treasurer Stephanie Walechka and Trustee Joe Bellmore were present for Gourley Township.

Moilanen welcomed the township officials and told them to please call the road commission anytime they had a question about the roads in their township.

Moilanen reported that countywide work in the upcoming year would include stump removal in areas that were brushed out in the past, pavement markings on local roads and at railroad crossings, and replacement of signs on primary roads and at railroad crossings, along with crack filling where needed. It was also noted that CR374, from H3 to CR551, in Gourley Township would be chip sealed this year. The bridge north of the Seventh Day Adventist Church will have rip-rap added this summer also, and a public notice would be given by the DEQ prior to authorizing the permit for the work.

A discussion was held regarding road commission funding and the possible increase in the gas tax or registration fees. Moilanen noted that although the governor was for the increased funding, he also may change the way the money is distributed which could mean a decrease in funding for road commissions in order to increase the funding for MDOT. Supervisor Wery asked if the county 3-way program would be repeated in the future. Moilanen stated that it was being considered, with the possibility of running the program every third year to allow the entities involved the opportunity to allocate the necessary funds.

Moilanen state that CR380, from Twin Hills to CR551, is on the 5 year plan to be chip sealed.

Supervisor Wery asked what will happen to the existing caution light on Hannahville Road once the new solar powered light is installed. Moilanen replied that it would be brought back to the road commission for future use elsewhere.

Clerk Berger asked if anything could be done to the culvert in the parking lot at the Gourley Township Hall. Moilanen will have the foreman check to see if it is within the road commission right of way.

Trustee Bellmore noted that there is a bus stop in the middle of the hill near Kellogg Lane and that you cannot see the buses flashing lights until you come over the hill. When the roads are slippery is it hard to stop. He asked if a sign could be placed before the hill warning motorists of the bus stop. Moilanen and Supervisor Wery will look at the issue.

Gourley Township officials left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

There being no further business, Kakuk declared the meeting adjourned. 7:31 p.m.

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Finance Director/Clerk

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Chair