

The Manistee Township Board met with the Manistee County Road Commission at the Road Commission office on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.. Board members present were John W Anderson, Dennis R Bjorkquist, John M Dontz, Connie L Smith and M. Rebecca Dinsen. Also, present were MCRC Manager Jerry Peterson, Foreman Bill Diesing, and Road Commissioner Duane Anderson. Also present were, Jim & Bob Schudlich, Walt Patrick, John Brown, Mike DeLeon, Jim Boyle, Scott Skiera, Steve Dontz, Pat Schoedel, Callie Schoedel, Dan Rutowski, Buzzy Miller, Al & Marsha Smith,  
Road maintenance and improvements made during 2005.

1. Road ends and Public Access on Bar Lake and on Lake Michigan need work, to indicate they are being maintained. The Township asked for brushing out to indicate maintenance on these road ends. (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005) Some work was done.
2. River Road was reconstructed from the end of the present black top to the top of the hills where the road turns east.

Possible future projects to be considered during 2006

1. An estimate will be given on River Road from the end of the present construction to the corner where the road is shared by Brown Township. The problem may be the large ravine, and if a culvert will be required.
2. Seal coating of the Primary Roads will take place this summer. Bjorkquist and Peterson will drive the local roads, then suggest those roads that warrant seal coating. Then an estimate will be given to the township. The seal coating price has gone to \$3,800.00 per mile as the township's share. There are nearly 30 miles of local roads in Manistee Township.
3. As possible construction choices McNeil Road (7) has been a bog and could use upgrading. Peterson will give us information on that cost.

Possible Future Projects

1. Kott /Dontz Road is good at each end and very rough in the middle. This is a Primary Road. No construction plans are laid out for the road before 2016. This is an extremely rough stretch. Peterson said any primary construction is based on commercial traffic, traffic count, and general condition of the road.
2. Claying, grading and graveling of E/W portion of Kemmer Road (6), Falk Road (7), Virgil Johnson Road (6), Asp Road (7), Scott Road (6) and Guenthardt Road (3). It was asked to have the shoulders drawn in and create less of a trough, and more of a road. All of these roads could cause damage to our fire equipment, because of trees and branches.

State Issues:

1. US 31 through Parkdale will be resurfaced in 2005. US-31 from the Olsen Hill area

north to Coates Hwy. will be resurfaced and extended to four lanes in 2007. That is the only Manistee Township project scheduled by MDOT until after 2016.

Maintenance issues within Manistee Township for 2006:

1. Brush around and in front of the stop sign at the SE corner of Holden & Fowler Streets. (Blocking vision)
2. Brush around stop sign at the corner of Park Street and Oak Grove Street. Please remove the brush after trimming. (Will cover stop sign again)
3. Brush on the SW corner of Piney and McNitt Roads (blocking vision).
4. The junctions of Dontz Road & M-22, Brickyard Road & M-55, Mathison Road & M-55, Kott Road and Lakeshore Road, the intersection of Hill Road and Kott Road do not have a double arrow indicating the roadway ends. There was one there and it has not been replaced. Boyle indicated the state does not want the double arrow signs replaced.
5. We are aware of only one set of the reflectorized posts strips, in Manistee Township, that were bought with Revenue Sharing money. Several intersections could benefit from them.
6. The alley between Fowler and Park Street in Parkdale is a continuously washing unto Holden Street. Can there be a lip put on the alley, or a way of keeping the gravel off Holden? In 2005 it was stated millings could be added to the sand to keep it in place. If this was done, it has not worked.
7. The bike path on Lakeshore near the outlet is sand covered. Could the sand be lifted off the road & bike path? This has been done several times - but is there another solution?
8. What can be done with the approach to the railroad tracks on US 31 near Lakeshore Road? There is an exceptional difference in the height of the road and the approach to the tracks. Very rough! The railroad is not interested in working on it at this time.
9. The Bridge Street boat launch has a drop off and needs repair. Peterson will provide costs to Bjorkquist.
10. Holden Street between Bridge and Park is a trough, with water standing, and major potholes.
11. The road control signs on River Road have not been installed. We were told they are still laying on the ground.
12. Piney Road between Maplewood & Balsam has a berm, and creates a narrow road.

13. Bjorkquist asked for the width of right-of-way on Piney Road.

14. Zimmerman Lane will be mowed on the as needed schedule as in past years. The trash on the edge of the Lane will be investigated.

The issue of a lack of a contract for the employees was discussed. There is the public perception the building was built, and now there is no money for paying the employees, safe equipment, or road work. Township board members urged all parties to work together to resolve this issue fairly as soon as possible.

The two Road Commission buildings and land are for sale. A portion of the Kaleva property has been sold.

Those people from Manistee Township were asked if they had any other suggestions or comments. There were none. The Road Commission employees and management were thanked for the job they both do on our road system.

There being no further business to come before the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC  
Manistee Township Clerk