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Important Dates:

January 10, 9:00am
Board Meeting

January 24, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Radio “Narrowbanding”

Under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate, effective January 1, 2013 the Road Commission is to cease operation of equipment radios on 25-kilohertz technology and switch to at least 12.5 kHz. This process is known as “Narrowbanding”.

The purpose of narrowbanding is to have radios programmed where signal strengths will be tighter and there is less chance a channel bleeds over on to another

channel.

The FCC began its efforts to make the change nearly 20 years ago, hoping to allow for the creation of additional channel capacity within the same radio spectrum, which will support more users.

Although the changes will likely go unnoticed by the public, the move is anticipated to cost the Road Commission approximately four thousand dollars.

Over 100 equipment

radios and 4 base stations will be reprogrammed to comply with the narrowbanding process.

Below is a photo of the Grand Haven garage radio base unit.



When Roads are Plowed

Winter maintenance activities include applying salt and sand, as well as plowing snow on roads and shoulders.

During a typical year, the Road Commission will respond to approximately 50 winter maintenance callouts, and will use about 20,000 to 25,000 tons of salt, and 14,000 to 18,000 tons of sand.

The cost of winter maintenance can easily be up to \$3.7 million annually, depending upon inclement weather conditions and the

duration of the winter season.

A policy was developed to provide cost effective winter maintenance operations and to inform the public about the level of winter maintenance services for roadways maintained by the Road Commission.

Winter maintenance operations are conducted in accordance with the established priority system based on traffic volumes, road classification, and location.

The priorities are as follows:

- 1 – State Trunklines
- 2 – Multi-lane Primary Roads
- 3 – Primary Roads
- 4 – Local Paved Roads
- 5 – Subdivision Streets
- 6 – Local Gravel Roads
- 7 – Dead End Streets



New Face, New Name



The above photo is of Joe Bush, the recently elected Ottawa County Drain Commissioner.

Recently elected, Joe Bush is not only a new face but he will also have a new title.

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners voted to change the name of the Drain Commissioner to the office of the Water Resources Commissioner. The new name reflects the office's responsibility of keeping the surface water clean while maintaining drainage outlets across

the county.

Joe previously worked in the Engineering Department and was employed by the Road Commission for over 10 years.

While working full time at the Road Commission, Joe attended night classes and received his Bachelors Degree in Business Management from Cornerstone

University.

Joe is excited to start his new leadership role with the support of his wife Laura and daughters, Lindsey and Emily.

The Road Commission congratulates Joe and looks forward to continuing a great relationship with the office of the "Water Resource Commissioner".

Safe Roads for Everyone

Why are some stakes placed alongside roadways prior to winter?

The Road Commission installs wooden stakes to mark the edge of pavement prior to the first snow event. The stakes are typically installed at intersections or curves that are difficult for the snow plow drivers to judge.

Recognizing that property owners may be concerned with possible parkway damage resulting from our snow removal activities, the Road Commission approves on a seasonal basis, installation of snow plow markers within the right-of-way by abutting property owners.

Typically the markers should be placed a minimum of 2' from the pavement edge and never

closer than area mail box supports.

The markers should consist of an aluminum support and reflector commonly available at hardware stores, or wooden stakes not larger than 1"x2"x30" high.

The top 9" of the wooden stakes should be covered with fluorescent orange paint for visibility.



Dave Vander Kooi served as a County Road Commissioner from January 2001 to December 2012, during that time he was the chairperson in 2005, 2006, and 2011.

Term Limits for Commissioner

The Road Commission would like to recognize and thank David Vander Kooi for his 12 years of service as a County Road Commissioner.

Dave was first appointed to the Road Commission in January of 2001.

Throughout his two terms as Road Commissioner, Dave held various positions on County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) committees and councils.

Dave has been active in the Ottawa County

communities. He was a Council Member at the City of Holland, Commissioner on the Ottawa County Board, and a Member of the Ottawa County Fair Board.

We appreciate Dave's years of dedicated service.