



Meet your 2020 Road Commission board

The OCRC is governed by a five-member Board of Road Commissioners appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners for a six-year term each.

The Board of Road Commissioners is responsible for approval of the annual budget, acceptance of bids, authorization of expenditures, adoption of policies, approval of contracts and agreements, and other policy matters.

Here's a look at the makeup of the 2020 Board:



Betty Gajewski, Chair - Betty was appointed to the Road Commission in December 2014 with a term expiring December 2020. She has owned a business and worked as an environmental professional for a nonprofit organization, public university, international manufacturer, engineering firm, and development commission. Betty served as a member of several Ottawa County commissions as well as the Tallmadge Township Planning Commission.



Jim Miedema, Vice-Chair - Jim was appointed to the Road Commission in January 2013 with a term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. He was reappointed for another 6-year term beginning January 2019, expiring Dec. 31, 2024. He is a retired body shop owner and currently resides in the Jamestown Township area. Jim has 20 years of township service as a former Jamestown Township supervisor and trustee.



Tom Bird, Member - Tom was first appointed to the Road Commission in January 2011 with a current term expiring Dec. 31, 2020. He resides in the Park Township area. Tom is a retired telecommunications engineer having worked for 45 years in engineering management and as a consulting engineer.



Tom Elhart, Member - Tom was first appointed to the Road Commission in January 2011 with a current term expiring Dec. 31, 2022. He was born and raised in Ottawa County and currently resides in the City of Grand Haven. A Hope College graduate, Tom is an associate broker with Signature Real Estate and has served on several boards for non-profit organizations. He also is a Rotary past-president and Paul Harris Fellow.



Timothy Grifhorst, Member - Tim was first appointed to the Road Commission in January 2011 with a term expiring Dec. 31, 2018. He was reappointed for a 4-year term beginning January 2019, expiring Dec. 31, 2022. He resides in the Tallmadge Township area and is self-employed. Tim served as a trustee for the Grandville School Board and the Kent County ISD Board, and also served on the Tallmadge Township Board of Trustees.

OCRC launches redesigned home on the web

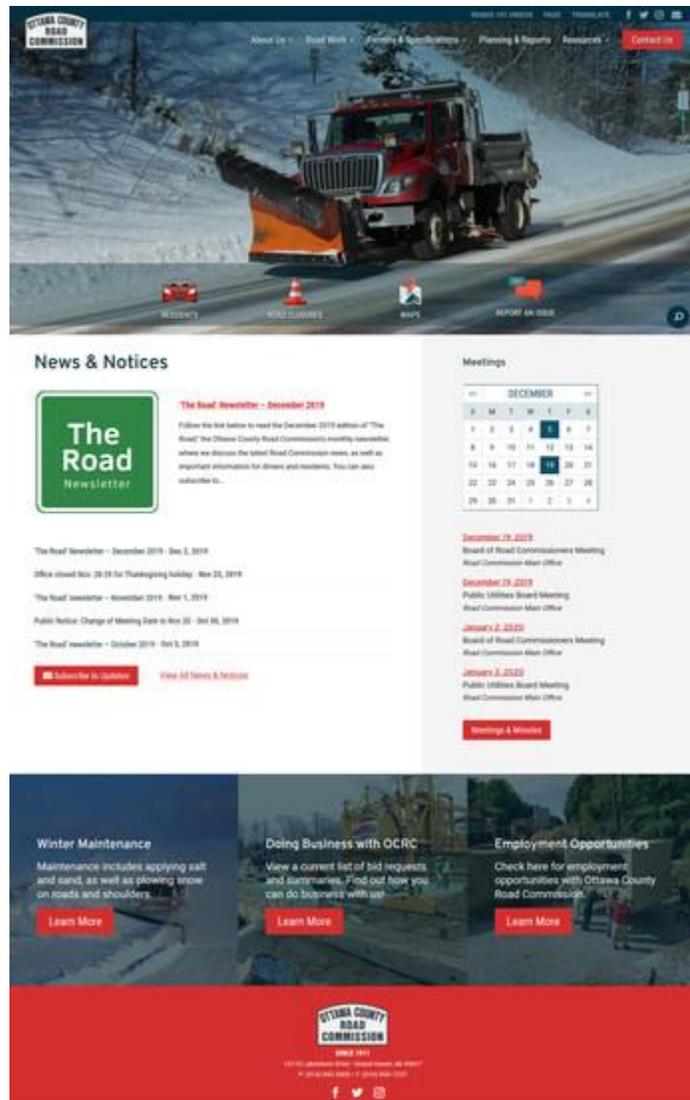
The Ottawa County Road Commission has unveiled a new design for its online home, www.ottawacorc.com.

The recently launched site is designed to be a lot more user friendly and is compatible with a lot of newer technologies. This means better compatibility on smartphones and tablets, in addition to desktop computers.

We've also better organized information on the site to make it easier to find and include more ways for people to learn about upcoming meetings and events via an interactive calendar.

There are also new ways for people to make payments over the Internet for both water and sewer bills, as well as for certain permits.

Along with these welcome changes, the site continues to give the public the ability to submit service requests and



questions, find information about road projects, and conduct other business with the Road Commission.

We're thrilled with the new design and hope that you find the look and feature set as useful as we do!

New system in place for transportation permits



The Ottawa County Road Commission has implemented Oxcart for all transportation-related permits.

Oxcart is an online permit system that can be accessed from any computer or hand held device with an internet or cellular connection.

The online permit system can be accessed at www.oxcartpermits.com.

To use Oxcart, all you need to do is get online and set up an account.

Once you have submitted your profile information, you will be able to insert information for each of your trucks. Your truck information will be stored in your account and can be selected for any permit with the click of a button.

When you submit a permit application, Oxcart will collect our permit fee, along with a small convenience fee for the online payment. The Road Commission is notified electronically when you submit a permit application and the fee is paid. As soon as we have reviewed and approve your application, a permit is automatically sent to you.

We are excited to partner with Oxcart to improve our permitting process. The Oxcart permit system should provide better tracking and monitoring of your applications and permits. It should also eliminate some of the issues with getting permits back to you once they are approved. You will also be able to access your permit history from your account at any time.

New tech helps support winter maintenance

The Ottawa County Road Commission will have more "eyes on the road" this winter thanks to the latest advancements in technology.

We recently installed 22 pavement sensors along roadways throughout the county that are designed to provide us with up-to-date info about winter road conditions.

Roughly the size of an American football, these sensors are mounted on roadside posts and measure air temperature, road temperature, humidity and dew point.

Knowing the temperature of the road can help us determine if/when to apply deicing materials, while knowing the air temperature and dew point can help us determine if snow is occurring or imminent.

This new tool will be useful for us when we conduct winter maintenance operations. It will help us to effectively and efficiently manage our crews and determine where they should head when inclement winter weather is on the way.

In addition to the current slate of features, the devices will also soon have the ability to tell us what the condition of the pavement is (wet, icy, dry).

We're excited about this new cutting-edge technology and what it means for our ability to improve our response and service during winter maintenance operations.



Important Dates:

January 16, 2020 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting

January 30, 2020 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting



14110 Lakeshore Drive
Grand Haven, Michigan 49460
616-842-5400

Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 7:30AM-4PM

The Ottawa County Road Commissioners:
Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Tim Grifhorst | Jim Miedema

Managing Director: Brett Laughlin