

**Christopher O. Long, PE, PS**  
 HANCOCK COUNTY ENGINEER

**2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

Work is complete on a new maintenance garage and a new salt storage facility. Being the county engineer there is a lot more to deal with than just roads and bridges. I continue to be committed to replacing bridges and repairing roads with the limited funding that we operate with. We have hired one (1) individual to be a laborer. The new individual is working on a variety of crews, at first, to see where he will work out best. The jump in the price of salt has been a difficult issue to deal with. Last year the price of salt was \$58.60 a ton and this year it is \$105.20 a ton. We had planned on using pure salt this winter, but with the prices the way that they are, we are using a mix of salt and stone to treat roads. We hope to get people stopped at intersections and maintain control on their routes. With that being said we urge you to slow down and operate your vehicle carefully!

**SOURCES OF REVENUE – 2014**

License Fees	\$ 2,094,000
Permissive License Fee	177,000
Gasoline Tax	2,335,000
Fines (Municipal Court)	84,000
Reimbursements	592,000
Interest	1,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 5,283,000</b>

- License fees are based on the number of vehicles registered in the County. (The fee for a passenger car is \$20, fees for trucks are higher.)

- The County also collects a \$5 permissive license fee for vehicles registered in unincorporated areas.
- \$.03/gallon of the Ohio Gasoline Tax is evenly distributed among all 88 Ohio Counties.
- A portion of traffic fines collected in Findlay and Fostoria Municipal Courts.
- The County is reimbursed for materials and services provided to other agencies.

**EXPENSES - 2014**

Employee Salaries	\$ 1,487,000
Fringe Benefits	595,000
Office & Grounds	196,000
Debt Service	147,000
Contracts:	
Pavement Striping	47,000
Bridge Contracts	181,000
Paving Contracts	995,000
Consultants	78,000
Traffic Signal	38,000
Road Materials	260,000
Road Salt	74,000
Bridge Materials	37,000
Culvert Materials	30,000
Sign Materials	45,000
Fuel	575,000
Equip. Maintenance	189,000
New Equipment	523,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 5,497,000</b>

RESPONSIBILITIES

363 Miles of Highway

1800 Acres of Right of Way

375 Bridges – The County Engineer is responsible for all bridges in the County except those on the State Highway system. Spans range from 10’ to 280’. 25 structures are over 100’ in length.

245 Culverts – 36” to 120” diameter

740 Culverts – 8” to 33” diameter

113 Permanent Maintenance ditches

186 miles of open channels

11 miles of subsurface tile

11,000+ Traffic signs on County and Township roads and Village streets. Townships and Villages contract with the Engineer for maintenance of signs on their systems.

STATUS OF ROADS

The table below identifies the rating of County and Township road systems as of December 2014:

	Miles of Highway	
	COUNTY	TOWNSHIP
Excellent	57	176
Good	87	278
Fair	128	168
Poor	92	12
Very Poor	0	1

The following table identifies the miles of resurfacing performed on each system during the past 5 years. The continuing commitment of the Township Trustees is obvious:

	COUNTY	TOWNSHIP
2014	14.9	18.4
2013	11.2	15.8
2012	17.9	10.1
2011	8.2	15.4
2010	5.6	17.1

2014 ROAD WORK

The following roads were resurfaced under contract with the Shelly Company for a total cost of \$798,492.15:

CR17 - TR150 to CR153

CR24–CR8 to 373’ East of Mt. Blanchard

CR26 – CR16 to Mt. Cory

CR29 – TR51 to SR235

CR54 – CR12 to TR79

CR183 – TR150 to SR103

CR109 – TR238 to TR256 was resurfaced under contract with M&B Asphalt for a total cost of \$331,651.50. A grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission paid for \$165,825.75 of the final cost.

STATUS OF BRIDGES

Every bridge in Hancock County is inspected at least once a year and a report of each bridge’s condition is submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation. Listed below is a summary of the condition of bridges in the County:

Excellent	136	Poor	6
Good	190	Closed	1
Fair	42		

6 bridges have reached a condition where they should be replaced as soon as funding allows. 34 bridges are posted for reduced weight limits, less than a 40 ton load.

2014 BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Bridge 59-11.61 (TR 59 over Tiderishi Creek) was designed and constructed by County personnel.

Bridge 501-0.00 (Main Cross over Eagle Creek) was designed by Poggemeyer Design Group and constructed by Zachrich Construction.

Two (2) culverts were replaced on Sixth Street in the City of Findlay by County personnel.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pavement Striping was performed under contract with Ogelsby Construction of Norwalk, OH on County Roads at a cost of \$47,014.00.

The equipment purchases in 2014 were a Mechanic’s truck for equipment maintenance (\$104,777.00). We purchased a dump truck for general use. We worked with Kalida Truck to

outfit that truck for \$67,300. We also outfitted a truck that was purchased in 2013 for \$65,600. Our Assistant Superintendent also needed a truck, a 2014 F-250 4x4, which we were able to purchase for \$24,995.00.

FINAL COMMENTS

A salt shortage has been difficult to deal with this winter. A big “thank you” to everyone who has helped us. A wonderful working relationship with the City of Findlay has been great to have. The new garage has been a huge blessing as well. We are able to thaw our trucks out at night, and our employees have a great facility to report to.