

Minutes
May 13, 2021

Commissioners Present: Timothy Bechtol, Michael Pepple, and William Bateson

Also Present: Lynn Taylor, Lucinda Land, Philip Johnson, Steve Wilson, Adam Witteman, Doug Cade, Lizzy Essinger, Lou Wilin and Maryann LaRoche.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from May 11, 2021 were read with William Bateson making the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Minutes from the special meeting held May 12, 2021 were read with William Bateson making the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #287-21 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Sanitary Landfill. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #288-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to MV>. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #289-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Severance (Sheriff). William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #290-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Severance (Common Pleas). William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #291-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Severance (Public Defender). William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #292-21 – A resolution to enter into a settlement agreement in the Mandamus Action related to the construction of a new facility to house the Hancock County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #293-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Sheriff. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. William stated that this resolution was for the creation of a 911 position with added duties after discussions with the Sheriff. William stated that Dale Shaheen will be retiring after 41 years.

William Bateson made the motion to approve the Warrant Journal, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. William Bateson made the motion for the Chairman's signature on the Environmental Review Documentation and Certification Form from HRPC, Michael Pepple

seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Lizzy Essinger stated that both of the documents requesting the Chairman's signature are standard grant documents. William Bateson made the motion for the Chairman's signature on the Juvenile Court Grant Agreement and Funding Application from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The 48th payment request from MWCD was approved for March and April, 2021 for \$45,906.50. Proclamations were read honoring Warren Krout, Sgt. Robert Driftmyer and Lt. Colonel George Kloppenburg.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #294-21 – Adoption of Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for all State of Ohio Office of Community Development Grant Programs. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #295-21 – Submission of 2021 Natureworks Round 27 Grant Application through the Ohio Parks and Natural Resources bond issue for the benefit of the Village of Van Buren. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #296-21 – Authorizing the contract with Schalk Bros, Inc., 348 N. Township Road 69, Tiffin, Ohio 44883, for the replacement of Bridge Han TR137-1.01, in Hancock County, Ohio. Doug Cade stated that the bridge will hopefully start soon and is a poorly rated bridge. Timothy Bechtol inquired if the new bridge will be wider and Doug stated that it will be a little bit wider. Also, Tim inquired about the side rails. Doug stated that the new standards will apply to this bridge, so yes, they will be different. Cindy stated that this contract will be for \$221,255.00. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session regarding potential real estate acquisition.

Timothy Bechtol stated that follow up will need to be done with the Prosecutor's Office regarding the State of Emergency. Tim was unsure if the new orders to be out on June 2, 2021 indicate the removal of the State of Emergency. Cindy stated that it's possible that when Hancock County issued their emergency, it was tied to the automatic release of the state's order. Cindy will look further into it.

Lizzy Essinger stated that their office is working with the Villages of McComb and Jenera on two pre-application grant projects.

Adam Witteman had nothing to report.

Doug Cade discussed the 2021 Hancock County Engineer's Annual Report.

At 10:00 the Commissioners participated in a telephone conference call with Wood County regarding Joint County Ditch Maintenance. Wood County prepared 2 resolutions for joint ditches for approval as follows: Resolution #21-000593 In the matter of authorizing collection of maintenance assessments for various ditches for duplicate year 2021 based on appraised benefits; Resolution #21-00594 In the matter of authorizing collection for maintenance assessments for duplicate year 2021 on Joint County Ditches, Frank Funk #32-A and David N.

Clark #2329, based on the Engineer's estimate (Wood and Hancock Counties, Ohio). Both resolutions passed and a copy will be forwarded to our office for the files.

Steve Wilson requested an executive session to discuss potential sale -transfer of real estate. Steve also stated that he stopped at the SR 224 project and the asphalt is done. Steve stated that the project should be done late today or Friday. Tim Bechtol inquired if that area had any flooding earlier in the week. Steve stated that he was in the area and saw no signs of flooding.

Meetings/Reports

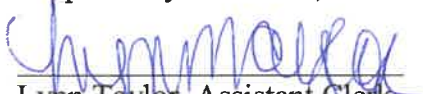
William Bateson stated the he met with the Public Defenders Office and they have hired a new attorney, Alex Treece. Bill also received a call from a Blanchard Township Trustee and they will be building a new Township House later this year to replace the one destroyed in the fire.

Michael Pepple stated that he met with the Hancock Leadership Group and the Hancock Firefighters Association. Mike requested an executive session regarding potential real estate sale.

Timothy Bechtol participated in the 4H Educator interviews.

At 10:08 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition and potential real estate sale. Michael Pepple seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 11:17 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynn Taylor, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:


Timothy K. Bechtol


Michael W. Pepple


William L. Bateson



Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS
Hancock County Engineer

County Engineer's Office

1900 Lima Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840

419-422-7433

Hours 7:00—3:30 M-F

County Engineer's
Maintenance Garage

Mike Clark—Superintendent

419-424-7225

Hours
7:00—3:30 M-F

Summer Hours
6:00—4:30 M-Th

Web:

[www.co.hancock.oh.us/
government-services/
engineer](http://www.co.hancock.oh.us/government-services/engineer)

Requirement for this Report

The Ohio Revised Code 5543.02 mandates the County Engineer to annually report to the Board of County Commissioners the state of the County Roadways and Bridges

Message from the County Engineer

Our Mission is to provide a safe and cost effective system of transportation that promotes the trans-economy for Hancock County in a global marketplace.

Transportation is a fundamental component of economic development and personal prosperity for all our fellow citizens of Hancock County. We all drive daily on our local roads to work, home, play, shopping and businesses delivering their goods and services. Our role in all of that is to deliver the safest and most efficient local transportation system possible for our County. We do that by collaborating with our agri-business, business, economic development, township and municipal government partners to find ways to improve safety, maintain our road and bridge system and plan for the future of our transportation system.

Our daily charge is to make our roads and bridges safe for our residents and the public. We accomplish this by planning how we can improve the safety and condition of all of our roadways and how we can maintain and enhance our County, Township and Municipal bridges. As part of this planning, our team evaluates the 358 miles of your County Roads and perform inspection on all 374 County, Township and Municipal bridges annually. From this evaluation, we are planning work for 2 to 25 years out into the future and making changes to our priorities as conditions require more immediate attention.

This Annual Report is a summary of all of those evaluations that demonstrates the condition of our County Roads and Bridges and how we plan to address those facilities. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as your Hancock County Engineer and will work hard every day to improve our transportation system and our community.

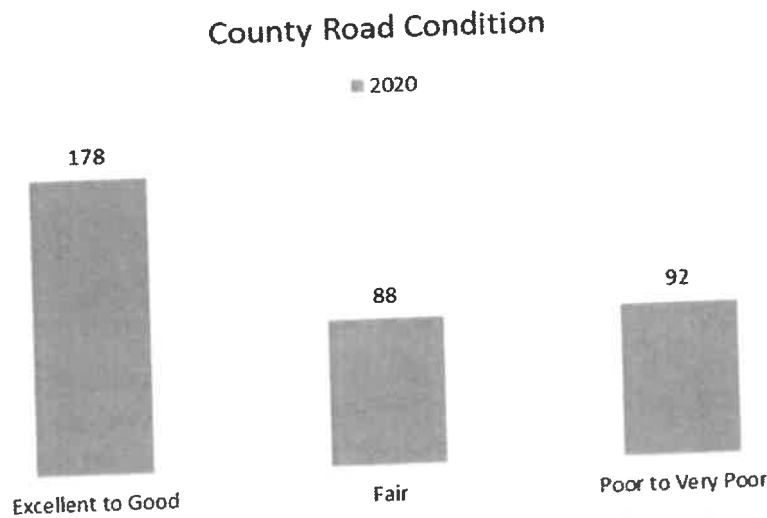
Thank you ,

Hancock County Engineer

Roads

The County Highway System has 358 centerline miles and we evaluate those pavements using a detailed Pavement Condition Rating system on those roads every three years so that we can make sound engineering-based decisions to maximize our pavement life and triage our roadway system. Additionally, we are constantly monitoring our pavements with our engineering and maintenance team. Currently, we have 50% in Excellent to Good Condition, 25% in Fair Condition and 26% in Poor to Very Poor Condition, as shown in the table below. The estimated cost to maintain and repair these roads is \$7,766,162.00.

Ideally, we would like to see our roads be resurfaced on a 12-15 year rotation which would reduce the preventative maintenance and critical maintenance that we have to perform daily. We are striving to improve that resurfacing cycle with the existing gas tax funds to make our County Roads better for all of Hancock County.



Here is the progress that we made in 2020:

Asphalt Resurfacing

(Funded with Local and OPWC grant funds)

County Road 53 - 6.93 Miles - \$444,222 County Road 203 - 5.44 Miles - \$405,189

(Funded with Local and Federal grant funds)

County Road 313 - 13.82 Miles - \$1,725,453

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 12 - 3.00 Miles - \$141,802	County Road 18 - 3.10 Miles - \$289,598
County Road 86 - 3.92 Miles - \$351,234	County Road 96 - 2.03 Miles - \$152,353
County Road 99 - 0.20 Miles - \$59,532	County Road 126 - 3.80 Miles - \$308,37
County Road 180 - 1.41 Miles - \$156,124	County Road 220 - 3.24 Miles - \$149,087

Roads

Roadway Widening

(Funded with Local Gas Tax funds)

County Road 2- 2.95 Miles - \$234,280



County Road 313 - Prior to Resurfacing



County Road 313 - After Resurfacing

Our Plan for 2021

Asphalt Resurfacing – 37.8 Miles - \$2,642,756

(Using Local Gas Tax and OPWC Funds)

CR 2 - 4.32 Miles	CR 60 - 2.00 Miles	CR 45 - 2.51 Miles	CR 75 - 1.06 Miles
CR 139 - 1.40 Miles	CR 16 - 3.34 Miles	CR 26 - 6.80 Miles	CR 9 - 8.17 Miles
CR 273 - 2.19 Miles	CR 4 - 1.00 Miles	CR 197 - 4.14 Miles	CR 156 - 0.70 Miles

Road Widening – 2.00 Miles - \$498,893

(Using Local Gas Tax Funds)

CR 172 – 2.00 Miles

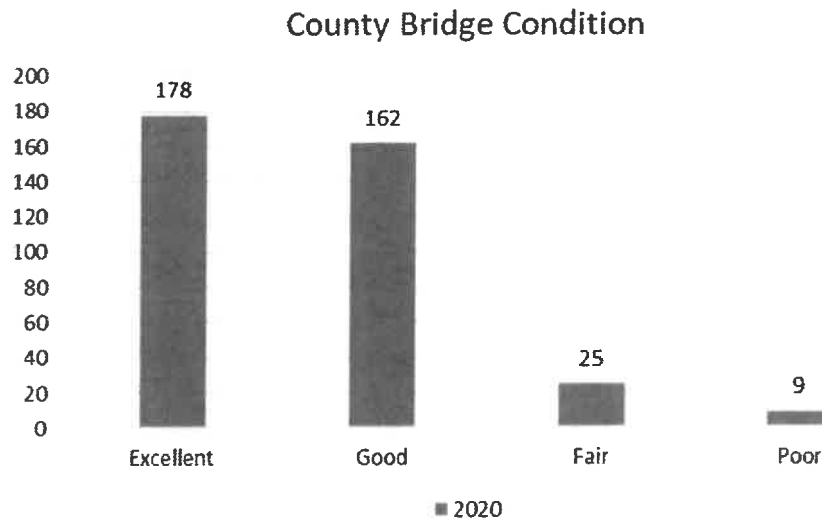
Roadway Drainage - \$250,000

(Using Local Gas Tax Funds)

CR 99 / 212 Storm Sewer - 540 Feet

Bridges

Our office does detailed inspections of the 374 bridges that are located on County and Township roads and in some of our 13 Municipalities. In addition to these inspections, we create an inspection report and evaluate all of our bridges for their load carrying capacity. There are 18 County bridges that have a reduced weight limit with 9 of those in fair to poor condition. The remaining Posted bridges are in good condition and will be replaced as the poor condition bridges are completed. The estimated cost to maintain and repair these bridges is \$16,450,000.00.



In 2020, we deferred our bridge program to 2021 due to the uncertainty of funding from the pandemic.

Our Plan for 2021

Howard Street Bridge - \$354,902

CR 2 - 4.99 Bridge - \$122,500

CR 153 - 0.91 Bridge - \$375,000

TR 137 - 1.01 Bridge - \$319,233



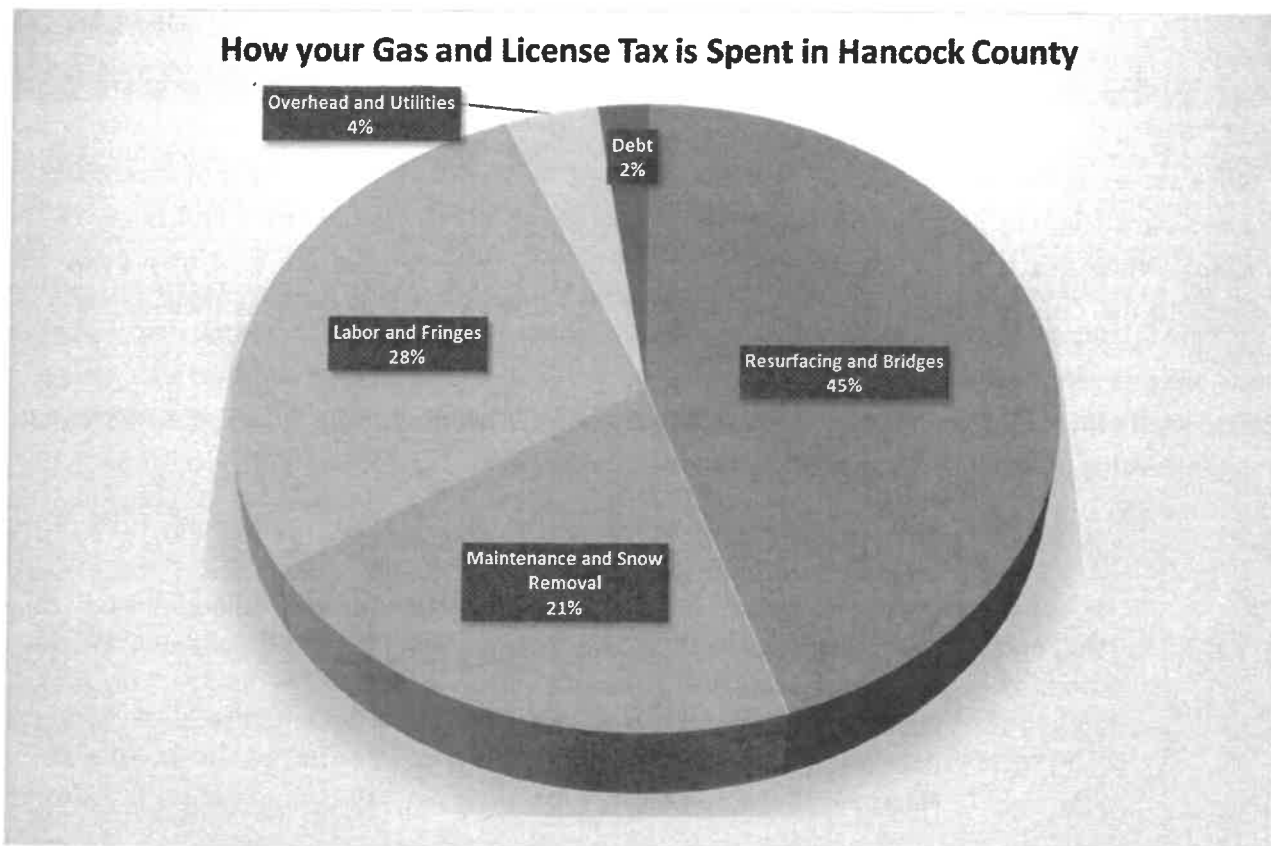
Portage TR 137 Bridge Replacement

Budget/ Fiscal Outlook

My Team works every day to find a more cost effective way to improve the safety of our County's Roadways and stretch our revenue as far as we can. Naturally, our single largest and most important expenditure is our workforce. Our employees are dedicated to serving the public and making sure your roads and bridges are as safe as they can be, because it is their families that travel the roads as well. During the past 20 years, we have become more efficient in our operations and prudent in our expenses and have reduced our workforce, through attrition, to a total of 28 employees. That savings has been converted to more resurfacing and bridge replacement and matching funds for state and federal grants. But as with most things the cost of materials have seen a steady increase over the years while our revenue and Force Account limits have remained largely flat.

We work efficiently by partnering with other agencies to purchase salt, utilize the State Cooperative Purchasing program, utilize the state surplus property program, competitively bid our aggregate, fuel and asphalt, serve as a fuel depot for all County vehicles and some participating Townships, jointly bid with Townships and Villages resurfacing, chip seal and pavement striping projects and we look at every single item that we purchase to make sure we are getting the best price possible.

During 2020, our Direct Revenue from State Gas Tax, License Plate Fees, County Vehicle Fuel Sales, Township Road Maintenance, Fines, and Interest was \$6,652,567. Additionally, we received \$1,380,362 in Federal Grants and \$373,741 in State OPWC Grants that were dedicated to specific projects. The following chart describes how those funds were spent for the maintenance and improvement of the County Roads and Bridges.



Tax Mapping

One of many statutory duties of the County Engineer is to serve as the County's Tax Map Draftsman and this is also one of the primary reasons that the County Engineer is required to have a Professional Surveyor License as a qualification to serve. These duties often are not seen as being under the County Engineer because our employees are housed with the County Auditor's staff making for a seamless operation in the transfer of property in Hancock County. But it is an important job that we take pride in efficiently working with land owners, surveyors, real estate agents and attorneys to make the conveyance of property an easy process.

In 2020, my Team reviewed the legal descriptions and appropriately mapped 3,157 transfers and surveys. Those included the following:

Conveyed Transfers -	1,829
Exempt Transfers -	1,160
New Surveys -	168
Pre-approvals -	506

Permits

Our office serves as the central location to obtain permits for work in the Road right of way, oversize and overweight trucking permits and floodplain development for all County roads and many of the Townships. While this is not a statutory duty of the County Engineer, we are glad to provide this assistance to the County Commissioners and 14 of the 17 Townships and serve as their engineering advisor.

In 2020, my Team reviewed the 173 Permits and numerous inquiries from business and residents wishing to develop in Hancock County. Those included the following:

Drive Access Permits -	44
Drive Access Variances -	3
Utility Installations (County Roads) -	24
Utility Installations (Township Roads) -	7
Overweight/Oversize Trucks -	74
Roadside Ditch Work (County Roads) -	4
Roadside Ditch Work (Township Roads) -	2
Floodplain Development -	15

Subdivisions

While the County Engineer's statutory responsibility is limited to the review of Subdivision Roads and Bridges, our Team provides assistance to the Hancock County Regional Planning, the County Commissioners and the Township Trustees, to review the County's minimum requirements for Subdivision construction. We do this work as time allows due to no funding being provided nor reimbursed from Construction Fees. Currently, our team is reviewing and / or inspecting the following subdivisions:

1. Best Liberty Addition
2. Best Liberty 1st Addition
3. Hickory Lake 2nd Addition
4. Hickory Lake 4th Addition
5. The Woods at Hillcrest 9th Addition
6. The Woods at Hillcrest 10th Addition
7. The Woods at Hillcrest 11th Addition
8. Glenmar 1st Addition Plat 2
9. Glenmar 2nd Addition Plat 2
10. Somerset 4th Addition
11. Deer Landing 1st Addition
12. North Findlay Commerce Park
13. Eagle Estates 2nd Addition
14. Meadow Ridge 1st Addition Subdivision
15. Hunter Creek 12th, 13th and 14th Additions

Petition Ditch Construction

The County Engineer's Office provides assistance to the County Commissioners for the Construction of Ditches that are Petition through the Ohio Petition Ditch Law Process. This assistance is primarily through the Public Viewing, Preliminary Engineering Report, project design and Final Engineering Report and initial construction assessments. In 2002, the County Engineer, County Commissioners and Hancock Soil and Water entered into an agreement that Soil and Water would administer all of the Petition Ditch Maintenance for the County. We continue to provide assistance to Soil and Water on an as needed basis. Like the Subdivision Program, we do this work as time allows due to no funding being provided nor reimbursed from Construction Fees. Currently, our team is working on the following Petition Ditches:

1. Dalzell Petition Ditch Reconstruction
2. Oil Ditch Petition Ditch
3. Howard Run Petition Ditch
4. Liberty Reed Petition Ditch
5. Western Meadows Outlet Petition Ditch
6. McComb Schroll Petition Ditch
7. Hickory Lake 2nd Addition Petition Ditch
8. Best Liberty Addition Petition Ditch
9. Conrad Hillshafer Petition Ditch
10. Wells Tri-County Petition Ditch

Featured Project CR 220



Hancock 
the signature county of Ohio

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