

### A Comprehensive Study on the condition of roads and long-term road maintenance needs

One of the primary responsibilities of rural townships is to maintain roads. Many township roads were never actually constructed, having evolved from wagon trails and paths made by settlers over a hundred years ago. In recent years, traffic from semis and large farm equipment has led to the deterioration of many of these roads. Additionally, culverts have been failing due to ageing and an increase in extreme weather events. This can lead to road closures, often for months at a time, until the road or culvert is repaired or replaced. The cost of these events is very large with respect to the overall township road budget, causing financial strain and requiring difficult choices to not spend money elsewhere. I do not see this problem going away or getting any better in the future.

I would use my elector right listed in subd. 4. (Roads, bridges, other expenses. The electors may vote money to repair and build roads and bridges) to propose that money be spend from the township's reserves to have a comprehensive study conducted on the condition of the roads, bridges, and culverts. The purpose of this is so that a long-term maintenance plan can be developed to better plan for expenses and maintain overall better road conditions.

One mandatory part of the Township Annual Meeting is the presentation of a road report. When the road report is read, it would be a good time to start a discussion about my proposal. I would wait to make a formal motion until the time the annual budget is discussed but introducing the subject at this time would help get my proposal approved by getting the conversation going.

When the planning of the annual budget comes up, I would propose my resolution to direct the board of supervisors to perform a study on the current road conditions in the township for the purpose of developing a long-term plan. This plan will include road maintenance, culvert replacement, and bridge upgrades, and will facilitate the establishment of work priorities as well as allow the township to plan financially for systematic road improvements.

This would benefit the township by providing knowledge as to what condition the roads are in, and which roads, bridges and culverts need to be repaired or replaced. A plan could be developed based on when, and how long the roads, bridges and culverts will last and when failure might occur. Also it would help protect the township so that there are no surprise road failures that could lead to accidents or road closures during the farmers' busy times of year, causing them to have to find alternative routes or work around them. Finally, some bridges are under-designed for modern farm equipment, and a plan would help the township seek funding to replace them.