

ERIE COUNTY BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

OFFICE BUILDING

10:00 A.M. Work Session in Treasurer's Conference Room - This session is comprised of the Blue Ribbon Commission and the Sub-Committee deliberating over the topic discussions that have taken place and to start compiling the recommendations for the "white paper."

11:00 A.M. Call meeting to Order – Co-Chairman Jeff Krabill and Co-Chairman Mike Parker

Commission Roll Call – Co-Chairman

Approval of Minutes - April 22, 2025 meeting regarding Entity Administrative Staffing

Purpose of the Meeting – To provide insights into determining how entities can work together to reduce costs and be more efficient with **Infrastructure – roads/street maintenance**. Facilitators: **Mr. Parker and Mr. Moon**

Review

- Major maintenance, Capital improvements or extra capacity needed in the near future (less than 5 years)? Long term - > 5 years?
 - It was proposed by Erie County Engineer and a memo was sent out from the Erie County Township Association president and the County Engineer last week requesting a plan from each township
 - Overall planning benefits were discussed such as cooperative contracts for any preventive maintenance (PM) such as thin overlay, micro-seal, crack seal, 2-inch overlay, chip seal, etc. Including cities in contracts in some cases could raise costs for rural areas due to costs in the cities are driven higher due to increased traffic control costs and mobilization costs and the piecemeal involved in working around manholes and other utility obstructions. Sandusky sets mobilization cost limits in the bids; however contractors are likely to make up for any possible underestimates by adding the cost to another area of a bid.
 - County, and townships concluded that by sharing 3–5-year road and street maintenance plan, the townships and county could benefit from cooperative contracting for work and purchases, the cities may wish to participate in some cases to reduce costs.
 - The County Engineer proposed informal quarterly meetings with townships to discuss work and issues that participants favor.
- Is routine maintenance primarily in-house or contract?
 - Primarily vehicle maintenance
 - Perkins Township has a staff mechanic that handles much of their maintenance
 - Sandusky has a facility and staff for maintenance.
 - Berlin Township they use American Diesel for out of warranty work.

- Under wash facility – idea expressed in previous public meeting. This is another cost-cutting issue that has merit, but where, and how much, how to fund are issues.
- Snow Removal and Service
 - Use of brine to pre-wet salt and reduce bulk salt costs – Margaretta purchased brine mixing machine via grant and is letting Perkins purchase brine. Groton and Oxford will work with Margaretta on a similar deal. The Erie County Highway department may also want to share.
 - Township Trustee Coleman noted that when the salt is treated as it comes out of the truck it reduces splattering, which is up to 30-40%. The salt sticks better and helps prevent hard pack ice formation which takes 10 time more salt to remove than just snow.
 - Townships and county drivers work together to work out efficient snow removal routes to reduce time and costs
- Equipment Sharing
 - Oxford-Margaretta-Groton (OMG) have jointly purchased used a road roller, new asphalt crack sealing machine, new mini-track hoe, and used paving machine. Erie County and OMG share equipment and personnel to do smaller paving jobs at about 60% of a contractor cost to mobilize and lay asphalt for small jobs.
 - Combined work for 3 townships last year resulted in approx. 6000 tons of asphalt being laid.
 - OMG team assists the county with some small jobs (Columbus Ave, Hull Rd bridge deck).
 - The County Highway Dept. frequently assists with trucks and last year Margaretta paid for a local contractor to assist with semi-trucks with Flow Boy systems to speed up the work.
 - Crack Sealing – Purchasing in large quantities may be done by contractor, this could be a cooperative contract.
 - Graders – Erie County has 3 graders that could possibly be shared.
 - Brine – Refer to snow removal.
 - Mini Excavators – Most townships have their own, OMG did a shared purchase in 2024.
 - Backhoes – Was agreed this piece of equipment that is not used much anymore.
 - Vacuum trucks – County Highway department assists townships quite frequently. Sandusky has their own.
 - Hydro-jet Sewer Cleaning – same as above
 - Tree trimming – Generally this is contracted and for rural areas non-routine, thus contracted as needed. Sandusky has a forestry dept.
- Coordinate road bidding projects together among cities, townships, villages
 - By sharing road plans with the County Engineer, townships and the county could benefit from cooperative contracting for work and purchases. This would expand on the current program that was instituted decades ago. Cities may also benefit.
- Fleet maintenance, fleet garage, and fleet mechanic concept might benefit townships, cities, villages and school districts. Even within the Erie County Departments, this could be beneficial.
- Activities planned or in progress to improve efficiency
- Future meeting with ECEO and key townships officials to add items to this topic
- Level 3 events – how to best share resources
 - Note: ODOT has joint agreements/mutual aid and contracts with local contractors on assistance

Meeting Summary

Closing Remarks by Commission Members

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Work Session: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at the Office Building, 247 Columbus Avenue, 3rd Floor

Regular Session: 10:00 AM Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at Office Building, 247 Columbus Avenue, 3rd Floor

Topic Discussion: Economic Development

Mr. Parker and Mr. Krabill, Facilitators