The Osceola County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing on the Election of Osceola County Road Commissioners was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Jack Nehmer at the Courthouse.

Commissioners Halladay, Gregory, Emig, Nehmer, Michell and Custer were present. Commissioner Elkins absent.

Also present: Jody Waurzyniak-Executive Assistant, Therese Bechler-Chief Deputy Clerk, and several members of the public.

Commissioner Nehmer opened the floor to public comment on the issue.

Roy Kissinger, representing Rose Lake Township, feels the current system works perfectly well. He thinks it should be left the way it is.

Ivan Giese, previous County Commissioner, gave the Board an overview of how the current system was put in place. He feels the system is working smoothly.

Tom Fabus, Hersey Township, always found the Road Commission to work well with the Hersey Board when he was on the Board and a Supervisor for Hersey. He is in strong support of the current Road Commission process.

Dale Bailey lives on 1 Mile Road in Evart Township. He complained about how bad the roads were where he lives. He feels we need some new direction. He hopes the Board will think very seriously before making a decision.

Alan Gingrich, Road Commissioner, let the Board know that he has been to 16 townships. Gingrich stated 14 of those Townships want the Road Commission left alone. Gingrich also stated he has talked to many people who want this left as an elected position.

Commissioner Michell added in comments.

Larry Barden, retired Engineer and disabled veteran, spoke about the plowing of the roads. He is not happy with the way the roads are maintained.

Martin Nieman, Osceola Township Treasurer, explained their millage schedule referring to funding for the roads. He stated things probably would not change no matter if you elect or appoint.

Ivan Giese added some additional comments.

Alan Gingrich responded to some of the comments made by the public regarding the condition of the roads. Commissioner Michell asked for clarification of Mr. Gingrich if people should call him directly or just call the office. Mr. Gingrich wants people to call the office.

Randall Van Buren, Hartwick Township Supervisor, spoke about the budget being to low. He stated Hartwick wants to keep the elected officials.

Dale Bailey added that he attended the last two Township meetings and not one Road Commissioner spoke. He feels that it is time for a change. He hopes the Board will think very hard before making their decision.

Commissioner Custer questioned Mr. Gingrich about the money the Road Commission receives from the State of Michigan and how it is allocated.
Tom Fabus added further comments on how the money is spent in Hersey.

No additional comments made.

Public hearing adjourned at 10:17 a.m. by Chairman Nehmer.

Therese Bechler, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Jack Nehmer, Chairman