

Road Commissioner Candidate Questions

November 12, 2024, Special Session

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

1. Describe your background and experience that would be relevant and useful in the position of County Road Commission.
2. Explain to use your understanding of the Job of Road Commissioner.
3. What would you do to further enhance the relationship between the Road Commission, City, Townships, and the Villages?
4. What do you think the relationship between the Road Commission and the County Board of Commissioners should be?
5. What role should public input have in the Road Commission's short and long-term objectives?
6. What do you see as the number one priority to be accomplished if you are appointed to the Road Commission?
7. With flat and/or declining revenues and less matching money available from local municipalities, how would you prioritize work to be done by the Road Commission?
8. Who should drive the setting of priorities of road improvement projects undertaken by the Road Commission? (Road Commission, City, Townships, and Villages, other)
9. Why should we appoint you to this position? What do you bring to the Commission that will make it a more effective organization?

Leelanau County Road Commission,

This letter is to inform you that I am interested in filling the vacancy on the Leelanau County Road Commission. I have made two unsuccessful efforts to be elected to the board since moving up to this beautiful county from Muskegon six years ago.

In moving to Leelanau County I resigned from my board position on the Muskegon County Road Commission where I had served nearly 12 years, the last three as chair.

During my time on the Muskegon board, I regularly attended township meetings, including those of my own township, to address various local concerns. One notable issue was the restructuring of "Scenic Drive," where residents voiced concerns over tree removal. I explained that our intent was to preserve the road's scenic nature, removing only trees that posed safety risks.

Although I've lived here for just six years, I have traveled the majority of our county's roads and am impressed by their overall condition. The county has done a remarkable job maintaining them.

I encourage you to contact Ken Hulka, Director of the Muskegon County Road Commission, at 231-740-9047, for any insights regarding my contributions as a board member and chair.

In addition to my local involvement, I have attended many state-level meetings, where we explored new techniques used by other counties, learned best practices for equipment replacement bids, and shared cost-saving strategies.

Currently, I serve on the county planning commission and would like to continue in that role, provided it does not conflict with serving on the road commission.

I look forward to meeting with the search committee to discuss how I can contribute and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin Black". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Melvin Black

Melvin Black

Resume for Road Vacant Road Commission Position

13846 S. Cedar Run Rd
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231)578-0581
swellmel46@gmail.com

CIVIL EXPERIENCE

Muskegon County Road Commission, Muskegon, MI — Board Member

2009 - OCTOBER 2019

2016-2019 CHAIRMAN

Gained valuable knowledge through numerous state wide seminars.
Well connected throughout the state and industry
Experience leading in a professional manner

Leelanau County Planning Board, Lake Leelanau, MI — Board Member

May 2020 - Present

Dealing with future plans for Leelanau County

JOB HISTORY

The Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon, MI — Stereotyper

June 1968 - June 1972

Printing plate maker and ad builder

The Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon, MI — District Circulation Manager

June 1972 - January 1980

Carrier supervision

Construction, Muskegon MI — Self Employed Contractor

February 1980 - June 1983

Remodeling and Building

Atlas Trucking, Muskegon, MI — Lease Account Manager

June 1983 - November 1989 after Atlas sold to Ryder Trucking

Leased Commercial Trucks from Holland to Mackinaw

SKILLS

Experienced Speaker

Leadership

Negotiating

Budgeting

Strong Interpersonal Skills

AWARDS

**Muskegon County Road
Commission Outstanding
Chairman**

**15 Year Award, Muskegon
County Prison Ministry
Volunteer Chaplin**

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

6 Year teaching civics to
2nd - 4th graders

CRIMINAL ADVISORY BOARD

2 years working with 2
Muskegon judges, a sheriff, 2
chief of police, 2 state parole
board members & 2
community mental health
professionals to find
alternative punishment for
nonviolent criminals

AMERICAN RED CROSS

16 gallons of blood donated

R & S Truck Leasing, Muskegon, MI — Vice President of Sales

February 1990 - March 1992 Company Closed

Leased & Purchased Trucks

Star Truck Rental & Leasing, Muskegon, MI — Lease Account Manager

June 1991 - March 1996 due to downsizing

Opened the Western Michigan Market for Star Trucking

CTI Trailer Leasing, Grand Rapids, MI — Lease Account Manager

April 1996-March 2000 Business Bankruptcy

Leasing Fleet of trailers over a three state region

Nexes Realty, Muskegon, MI — Realtor/Associate Broker

April 2000 -December 2018 Retirement

Listed and sold residential and commercial real estate

W MICHIGAN TRAFFIC CLUB

President 4 years

Treasurer 4 years

North Michigan District of the Wesleyan Church

3 years on the board

managing 57 churches

BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS

3 years in mentorship

EDUCATION

Greenville High School, Greenville MI - HS Diploma

1965

Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, MI

1972-1986

128 Credit Hours in Business Administration & Traffic Management

3.67 gpa

PERSONAL

Married to Joyce Black — 56 years

Raised 4 Children— Rob 60, Leanne 53, Tim 52 & Dan 49

16 Grandchildren

TIMOTHY J. LODGE, P.E.

13160 South Tager Road • Traverse City, Michigan 49684 • 231.632.5535

October 4, 2024

Leelanau County
Richard I. Lewis, Interim County Administrator
8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suite #101
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
rlewis@leelanau.gov

Dear Mr. Lewis:

This letter is to express my interest in filling the vacancy on the Board of County Road Commissioners. Attached is my resume demonstrating more than 39 years of experience with all aspects of public infrastructure including roads and bridges. I served on the Michigan Department of Transportation North Region Bridge Council from it's inception until my retirement from the City of Traverse City in September 2023 and was the City's representative for the regional transportation planning group Traverse Transportation Coordinating Initiative (TTCI formerly TC-TALUS) during the 20 years I was the City Engineer. This included the recent transformation to a Metropolitan Planning Organization in 2023.

In addition to having technical expertise in roads and bridges I am familiar with board governance, the roles of board members and the roles of staff. I can join the Board of County Road Commissioners with a minimal learning curve. As a resident of Leelanau County since 1992 I am vested with keeping our infrastructure in the best condition possible.

I look forward to discussing the opportunity to serve on the Board of County Road Commissioners further.

Sincerely,

Timothy Lodge

Timothy J. Lodge, P.E.
(231) 632-5535

TIMOTHY J. LODGE, P.E.

13160 South Tager Road • Traverse City, Michigan 49684 • 231.632.5535 • tlskier62@gmail.com

CAREER SKILLS

Thirty nine years of civil engineering experience with diverse projects and clientele. Creates innovative solutions to complex problems and challenges. Leadership and management skills obtained through continuing education, training and experience. Thirty two years as a PSIA Certified Ski Instructor.

EMPLOYMENT

SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER

Lodge Engineering Consultants

SEPTEMBER 2023 TO PRESENT

Traverse City, Michigan

Senior Project Engineer/Manager including client contact, design, bidding, contract administration and construction monitoring. Projects included roads, parking lots, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water distribution and supply, snowmaking systems, site lighting systems and site developments with a focus towards ski areas.

CITY ENGINEER

City of Traverse City

MAY 2003 TO SEPTEMBER 2023

Traverse City, Michigan

City Engineer responsible for all surveys, easements, maps, plats, diagrams, plans and specifications for all public improvements, buildings and grounds for the City. Oversaw more than \$200 million in capital improvements. Projects included streets, sidewalks, trails, bridges, parking lots, parking decks, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water distribution and supply, structural evaluations including bridge inspections, roofing replacements, generator and solar power back up systems, and park projects. Significant involvement in the renovation of the City's Hickory Hills Ski Area. Prepared budget and led eight person City Department. One of eight department heads that led the business and function of the City in conjunction with the City Manager. Assisted the City Manager with the Annual Budget and implemented the Capital Improvements Plan. Serves as the Traffic Engineer for the City. Also prepared engineering studies for water, storm water and sanitary sewer systems, ordinance and code review, Part 91 Municipal Enforcement Agency for soil erosion and storm water control. Led the public involvement process for all identified stakeholders, project programming, permitting, funding determination and grant applications for City projects and initiatives. Managed consultant relationships and reviewed projects for compliance with City ordinances and related state and federal regulations and permitting.

SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER
URS Corporation

MAY 1999 TO MAY 2003
Traverse City, Michigan

Senior Project Engineer/Manager including client contact, design, bidding, contract administration and construction monitoring for municipal utility and transportation (MDOT) projects. Assisted office manager with office start-up. Mentor to graduate and junior engineering staff.

BRANCH MANAGER/PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER NOVEMBER 1991 TO MAY 1999
Sundberg Carlson and Associates, Inc. *Traverse City, Michigan*

Branch Manager starting in 1995 for civil engineering and surveying with responsibilities including Annual Business Plan and Long Range Strategic Plan for twelve person branch office. Provided administration including human resource, finance including annual budget, technical and operational functions for office. Developed and maintained clients in support of sales goals for new geographic sales market.

PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER
Wade- Trim/Granger

MARCH 1990 TO NOVEMBER 1991
Gaylord, Michigan

Project Engineer/Manager including client contact, design including surveying, bidding, contract administration and construction monitoring. Projects included roads, bridges, parking lots, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water distribution and supply, wastewater treatment, site developments and structural evaluations including bridge inspections. Also prepared engineering studies for municipal systems, rate studies, ordinance and code review, cost estimates, project programming and funding application preparation, and grant applications. Provided engineering and surveying services to local cities, villages, and townships. Responsible for developing several new Northern Michigan clients.

PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER
Wightman and Associates, Inc

MAY 1985 TO MARCH 1990
St. Joseph, Michigan

Project Engineer/Manager including client contact, design, bidding, contract administration and construction monitoring. Projects included roads, bridges, parking lots, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water distribution and supply, wastewater treatment, site developments and structural evaluations including bridge inspections. Also prepared engineering studies for water, storm and sanitary sewer systems, rate studies, ordinance and code review, cost estimates, project programming and funding application preparation, and grant applications. Provided engineering and surveying services to local cities, villages, and townships. Responsible for developing several new Southwest Michigan clients. Participated in creation of three branch offices.

EDUCATION / LICENSE

B.S. CIVIL ENGINEERING
Michigan Technological University

GRADUATED 1985
Houghton, Michigan

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
State of Michigan

SINCE 1989
No. 34914

PROFESSIONAL SKI INSTRUCTOR

SINCE 1992