

Ottawa County Engineer's Office

2024 Annual Report



Board of Ottawa County Commissioners:

This report highlights key projects, budgetary overviews, and future planning initiatives, demonstrating our commitment to efficient and sustainable infrastructure development. These achievements reflect a commitment to improving our infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life for all county residents. We are proud of the progress made and look forward to continued success in the years to come. This staff's commitment to serving our community shines through in every project, large or small, and their tireless efforts are a testament to their professionalism and genuine care.

The year 2024 marked notable personnel transitions within our organization. In July, we acknowledged the retirement of Mr. Dan Jensen, our esteemed Highway Superintendent. Over his distinguished 32-year tenure, Mr. Jensen amassed an extensive and invaluable body of knowledge. His meticulous approach and comprehensive understanding made him the primary point of contact for addressing and resolving complex challenges. We extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Jensen on his well-earned retirement and express our deep appreciation for his dedicated service.

The close of the year brought an unexpected announcement with the resignation of Mr. Ron Lajti from his position as Ottawa County Engineer. Mr. Lajti's tenure was marked by an exceptional dedication to public safety and a strong commitment to serving the residents of Ottawa County. His leadership was instrumental in achieving a debt-free status for the Ottawa County Engineer's Office through his strategic emphasis on efficient and economical project management.

These departures leave a significant void, but also an inspiring legacy of fiscal responsibility and dedication to community well-being. Their commitment to Ottawa County will undoubtedly be remembered long after their departure.

It is with genuine excitement and profound honor that I step into the role of County Engineer. I am deeply committed to serving the residents of Ottawa County and building upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Toris, Jr., P.E., P.S.
Ottawa County Engineer

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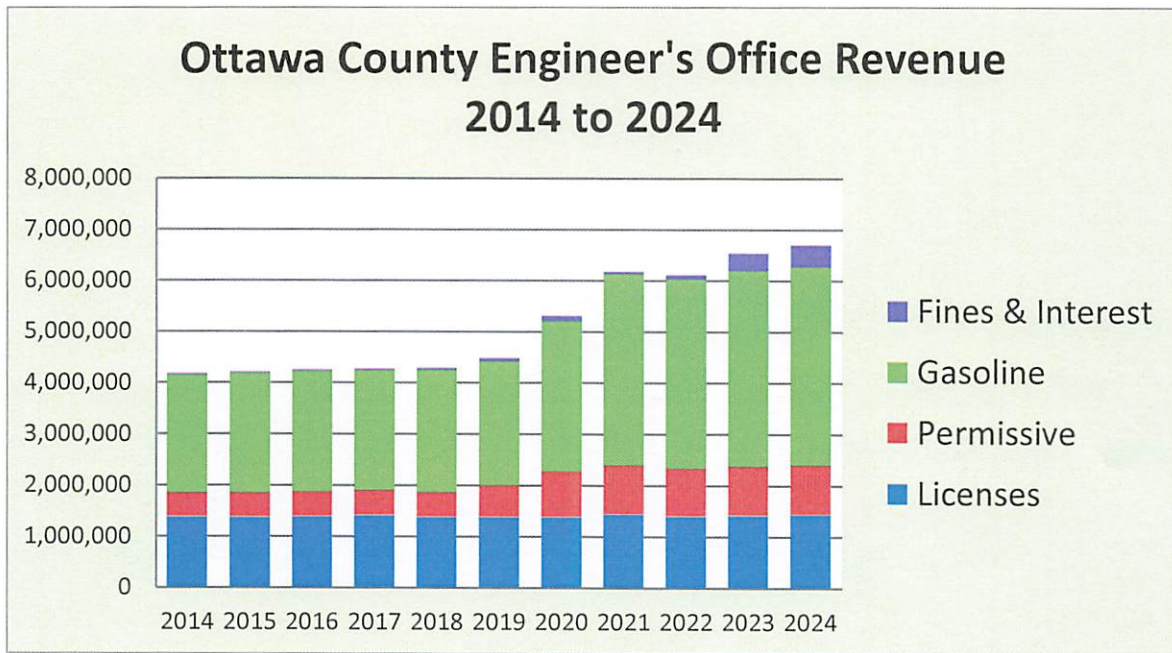
Revenue

The main sources of revenue for the Engineer's Office are Fuel Taxes, License Registration Fees, Permissive Fees, fines and interest. The most recent increases were the enactment two Five-Dollar Permissive License Fees (2017 & 2018) and the other was an increase in gas taxes in 2020.

Fuel, Permissive and License revenues have remained fairly consistent since the last increases. However, inflation is impacting costs. We continue to plan and strategize resources in order to provide quality projects.

This office contracted \$5.4M in road, bridge and drainage projects in 2024 (\$2.45M in county projects, \$2.9 million for townships and \$64K for drainage projects). Of this, \$1.2 million was funded with grants, public/private partnerships, or interest free loans. While that number reflects a lot of hard work, it is worth mentioning that the those funds found their way into Ottawa County's infrastructure as a direct result of the "behind the scenes" efforts from the staff of the Engineer's Office.

The following chart provides a graphical view of our revenue sources and amounts while the spreadsheet at the bottom provides actual numbers.



Year	Licenses	Permissive	Gasoline	Fines & Interest	Total
2014	\$ 1,373,952.16	\$ 467,953.82	\$ 2,299,886.19	\$ 30,702.91	\$ 4,172,495.08
2015	\$ 1,367,905.27	\$ 471,200.21	\$ 2,334,893.50	\$ 31,062.38	\$ 4,205,061.36
2016	\$ 1,383,645.85	\$ 478,226.71	\$ 2,356,712.91	\$ 34,583.90	\$ 4,253,169.37
2017	\$ 1,405,039.17	\$ 486,961.83	\$ 2,338,615.75	\$ 41,603.63	\$ 4,272,220.38
2018	\$ 1,377,170.53	\$ 475,869.94	\$ 2,389,284.77	\$ 45,613.01	\$ 4,287,938.25
2019	\$ 1,374,392.07	\$ 618,474.07	\$ 2,417,403.95	\$ 74,327.57	\$ 4,484,597.66
2020	\$ 1,374,935.10	\$ 885,481.62	\$ 2,939,200.28	\$ 111,365.31	\$ 5,310,982.31
2021	\$ 1,435,168.79	\$ 954,673.69	\$ 3,739,694.30	\$ 45,342.05	\$ 6,174,878.83
2022	\$ 1,394,933.09	\$ 931,566.55	\$ 3,700,502.54	\$ 84,788.15	\$ 6,111,790.33
2023	\$ 1,411,893.78	\$ 953,225.75	\$ 3,827,153.05	\$ 350,484.42	\$ 6,542,757.00
2024	\$ 1,431,862.35	\$ 962,597.76	\$ 3,871,744.51	\$ 440,515.58	\$ 6,706,720.20

Road Resurfacing / Preservation Programs

Ottawa County typically bids their road programs by surface treatment type. We join with townships in the bidding process in an effort to secure better pricing than may be received through separate bids. The Ottawa County Engineer's staff also coordinates and handles all contractor relations, on-site inspections and grant documentation. These efforts provide the townships with professional oversight, inspection, and record keeping as well as an opportunity to secure funding that otherwise may not be available to them.

In coordination with the Ottawa County Improvement District, Ottawa County was successful in securing \$350,000 in grant funds thru the State of Ohio's Office of Jobs and Commerce toward an improvement project on Toussaint South Road. Toussaint South Road was improved to better serve the existing and future businesses of the Lake Winds Industrial Park. Below are tables summarizing County and Township Road work in 2024.

County Road Repair/Widening/Resurfacing

Road No.	Road Name	Length / Miles	Cost
104	Toussaint South Road	0.65	\$ 788,219
213	Nissen Road	2.53	\$ 625,097
Various	Reclamite Asphalt Rejuvenation	-	\$ 50,761
		10.79	\$ 1,464,077

The County Highway Department contributes to the county road surface treatment program with their Tar & Chip and Fog Seal programs. Efforts are also made to preserve existing pavements through a berm program, hot mix repair and wedge course program, as well as crack seal and patching. The following tables provide information on the work performed in 2024.

Miscellaneous Programs

Work Type	Cost
Berm	\$ 149,938
Crack Seal	\$ 104,519
Cold Patch	\$ 18,101
Total:	\$ 272,558

Tar, Chip & Fog Seal Program

Road No.	Road Name	Length / Miles	Cost
208	Elliston Trowbridge Road	6.01	\$ 195,099
Total:		6.01	\$ 195,099

Road Resurfacing / Preservation Programs

Township Road Resurfacing and Preservation

Asphalt Concrete Resurfacing		
Township	Length (Miles)	Cost
Carroll	2.97	\$ 384,149
Catawba Island	0.89	\$ 95,805
Danbury	0.72	\$ 145,272
Harris	1.59	\$ 216,392
Portage	0.77	\$ 136,122
Put-In-Bay	0.36	\$ 179,848
Salem	1.50	\$ 257,313
Subtotal:	8.80	\$ 1,414,901

CM-150 Cold Mixing Leveling Course		
Township	Length (Miles)	Cost
Allen	2.04	\$ 322,449
Benton	2.04	\$ 294,421
Clay	3.46	\$ 446,149
Subtotal:	7.54	\$ 1,063,019

Township Road Resurfacing and Preservation

Tar, Chip & Fog Seal		
Township	Length (Miles)	Cost
Allen	4.28	\$ 198,691
Carroll	1.00	\$ 23,289
Erie	2.00	\$ 45,070
Harris	1.38	\$ 35,048
Salem	2.58	\$ 69,985
Subtotal:	11.24	\$ 372,082
Township Road Resurfacing and Preservation Grand Total:		\$2,850,002

Highway Department Programs

In addition to road repairs and bridge maintenance, the Highway Department also performs drainage work, snow and ice control, sign maintenance, clear storm damage and remove weeds and brush. The following depicts costs associated with their efforts.

Snow and Ice Control 23-24	\$	148,317
Mowing	\$	310,964
Fleet Maintenance	\$	301,234
Sign Maintenance	\$	126,324
Rumble Strip Installations	\$	3,411

Building Maintenance	\$	43,893
Junk/Brush/Guardrail/Barr.	\$	67,696
Storm Work/High Water	\$	6,352
Training (includes CDL)	\$	43,488

Miscellaneous Drainage Improvement & Maintenance Programs

Work Type	Location	Cost
Nissen Road Shoulder and Drainage Improvement	West Side of Nissen Road from S.R. 163 north to Whitney Road	\$ 47,565
Portage River South Road Shoulder and Drainage Improvement	Portage River South Road in Salem Township from Gordan Road, west approximately 1000 LF	\$ 57,534
Misc. Roadside Drainage	Various Locations	\$ 99,848
Cross-Over Repair & Replacement	Various Locations	\$ 54,963
Total:		\$ 259,910

Roadway Capital Improvement – 5 Year Plan

Ottawa County's 5-year Roadway Capital Improvement Program is highlighted below. An annual target budget of \$1,500,000 of local funds per fiscal year will be allocated to this effort. Additional funding will be utilized through grant programs available to the county to close the gap in funding for the proposed program.

The following list is the work anticipated to be undertaken in the following years:

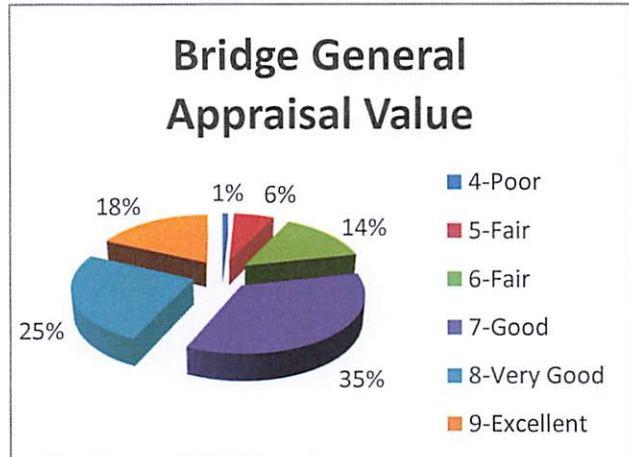
County Road Capital Improvement Program Projection (5-year)

2025	Langram Road Resurfacing (Entire Length – Ferry Entrance to P.I.B. Village Limits)	\$ 1,250,000
	Church Road Improvement (Bay Shore Road to S.R. 163)	\$ 1,040,000
2026	West Catawba Road Rehabilitation (S.R. 53 to Sand)	\$ 475,000
	Nissen Road Resurfacing (S.R. 163 to N.S. / Penn. Railroad)	\$ 325,000
	Moline-Martin Road Ditch Enclosure (Schessler Ditch)	\$ 300,000
	Elmore Eastern Road Improvement (S.R. 590 to Wolf Creek)	\$ 375,000
2027	Moline Martin Road Improvement (Nissen to Elliston-Trowbridge)	\$ 350,000
	Moline-Martin Road Improvement (S.R. 51 to Genoa-Clay Center)	\$ 700,000
	Cape Seal Program (Various County Roads)	\$ 775,000
2028	Genoa Clay Center Road Rehabilitation (County Line to Genoa)	\$ 175,000
	Bolander Road Rehabilitation (Moline-Martin to Trowbridge)	\$ 300,000
	Lockwood Road Resurfacing (Fulton to Plasterbed)	\$ 550,000
	Camp Perry Western Road Resurfacing (Toussaint South to S.R. 2)	\$ 475,000
2029	Wildacre Road Rehabilitation (SR 579 to County Line)	\$ 475,000
	Duff-Washa Road Rehabilitation (Benton-Carroll to S.R. 19)	\$ 550,000
	Toussaint East Road Rehabilitation (Benton-Carroll to S.R. 19)	\$ 600,000

Total Projected Cost \$ 8,715,000

Bridge Report

Ottawa County currently maintains 111 bridges. The chart at the right shows the current general condition of bridges in the county. At this time 1 bridge rates “poor”, 23 bridges rate “fair”, and 87 bridges rate “good” or better. 13 bridges are currently posted with a load limit. A list of posted bridges is available on the county website. No bridges on Ottawa County’s inventory are closed at this time.



BRIDGE INSPECTION

Annual condition evaluation inspection of all bridges maintained by Ottawa County has been completed for 2024. Inspection information has been reported to ODOT. We have reported the results of our inspection of the joint county road bridges to both Sandusky and Wood Counties. There are a total of 6 joint county bridges which Ottawa County has the responsibility to inspect and maintain. Additionally, we have developed and distributed a summary list of bridge conditions to all Townships which have bridges on the County road system. Inspection records are available for review at the Engineer’s Office.

In 2024, our staff has completed work to meet the requirements of the revised National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) published on June 6, 2022. These efforts included additional personnel training and coordination with ODOT to assure that our staff meets all requirements of these revised standards. This work was completed prior to the deadline of June 6, 2024.

In March 2022, FHWA released a revised version of the Standards for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI). The revisions to the bridge inventory system are substantial and will require a full re-inventory of all bridges on the public system. A significant amount of work will go into the revamp of the National Bridge Inventory and therefore compliance associated with the new standards has been set at December 31, 2026. Ottawa County, along with all other public agencies that maintain bridges on the public road system, will be required to comply with these standards. At this time, the bulk of the work required to develop the new Ottawa County bridge inventory has been completed. Further work will be required to conform to the new standards as the FHWA finalizes the requirements.

BRIDGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In 2024, several bridge maintenance items were completed. County Highway Maintenance crews performed miscellaneous maintenance items including cleaning of all bridge decks and external support members, berm maintenance and washout repairs, creek scour repairs at bridge supports, debris and log jam removal, joint and crack sealing of bridge decks, and chip sealing of several bridge decks. This work was completed for a total cost of \$49,893.03 including materials, equipment, and labor.

Ottawa County completed two bridge capital improvement projects in 2024:

- **Reiman Road over Cedar Creek Rehabilitation**
The deficient single span steel beam bridge was replaced with a new prestressed concrete box beam superstructure. The existing abutments were rehabilitated and new bridge railing and approach guardrail was installed. The project cost was \$314,237.28 and was funded with 100% County Road & Bridge funds.



Bridge Report Continued

- Portage River South Road over Sugar Creek Rehabilitation**

The deficient three span reinforced concrete slab deck bridge was rehabilitated with installation of a new three span prestressed concrete box beam superstructure. The existing abutments and piers were rehabilitated and new bridge railing was installed and tied into the existing approach guardrail. The project cost was \$642,989.55 and was funded with 100% County Road & Bridge funds.

BRIDGE LOAD RATING

In 2024, two bridge postings were rescinded and one bridge was removed from the inventory. No additional bridge postings were required in 2024.

The existing bridges on Reiman Road (TR-53) over Cedar Creek and Portage River South Road (TR-18) over Sugar Creek were rehabilitated and the load postings associated with the old bridges were rescinded.

The elliptical concrete culvert on Kirk Road over Schmardebeck Ditch was identified as a bridge in 2012 based upon field measurements, as plans had not been located for the pipe. In 2024, while performing updates to the bridge inventory, as-built plans for the structure were discovered within the SR-2 bypass plans from the late 1960's. Based upon the information in the plans, the span of the structure is less than 10' and therefore does not qualify as a bridge. Therefore, the structure has been permanently removed from the bridge inventory. Danbury Township will now be responsible for the maintenance and inspection of the culvert.

BRIDGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Ottawa County is planning to perform a significant number of bridge renewal projects over the next several years. An annual budget of at least \$1,000,000 of local funds per fiscal year will be allocated to this effort. Additional funding will be utilized through grant programs available to the county to close the gap in funding for the proposed program.

The following list is the work anticipated to be undertaken in the following years:

Bridge Capital Improvement Program (5-year)		
2025	Rocky Ridge Road over Toussaint Creek Replacement	\$1,000,000
	Rymers Road over LaCarpe Creek Rehabilitation	\$250,000
2026	Locust Point Road over Turtle Creek Rehabilitation	\$600,000
	Fostoria Road over Crane Creek Rehabilitation (Joint County - Wood)	\$400,000
	Genoa-Clay Center Road over N. Branch Turtle Creek Replacement	\$250,000
2027	Wildacre Road over Crane Creek Replacement	\$750,000
	Elliston-Trowbridge Road over Turtle Creek Rehabilitation	\$400,000
2028	Schultz Portage Road over Sugar Creek Rehabilitation	\$400,000
	Main Street (Genoa-Clay Center Road) over Packer Creek Replacement	\$750,000
2029	Trowbridge Road over Turtle Creek Replacement	\$600,000
	Schultz-Portage Road over Wolf Creek Replacement	<u>\$250,000</u>
Total Projected Cost		\$6,150,000

Ditch Maintenance

Permanent base reviews and routine ditch maintenance were the focus in 2024. The Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District was a key partner in the program. They assisted with the coordination and oversight of efforts to maintain several ditches (or portions of ditches) currently in the county maintenance program. Their duties included performing annual inspections of each ditch, management of cleaning projects, and planning for future projects.

The County Highway Department has taken over the ditch mowing duties with exceptional results. Their involvement in mowing and minor drainage repairs was a tremendous help again this year.

One ditch project was under taken via contract in 2024 and some minor jobs were handled by the Highway Department. The Permanent Base Review process was a main focus and 7 ditches were successfully updated.

Maintenance Ditch Programs

2024 Maintenance Ditch Costs

Beginning Balance	\$	169,263
2024 Net Expenses	\$	232,789
2024 Income	\$	186,796
Ending balance	\$	123,270

Ditch Statistics

Ottawa County oversees 89 ditches -
(84 single county, 5 joint county)

Open Ditches = 120.4 miles
Closed Ditches = 3.0 mile

Final cost for those completed in 2024:

LaCarpe Creek (Kaiser)	\$	69,700
Eppling	\$	8,252
Winter's Ditch	\$	610
Schultz	\$	560

Additional Maintenance Costs in 2024:

Annual Inspections, 6-Year Review, Pump maintenance, and administration	\$	106,093
Mowing and Spraying	\$	44,354

Proposed for 2025

Construction Projects

LaCarpe Creek (Kaiser) (Phase 2)	\$	41,870
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Permanent Base Reviews

- Lickert Harder Banky
- Cottonwood
- Eppling
- Lenz
- Woodrick
- Opfer Lenz Valasek
- Smith
- Lick
- and others as time allows

Survey Division

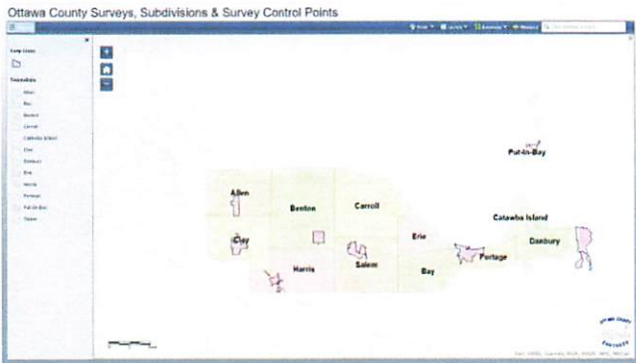


2024 was a busy year and a year of change. There was more time and effort put into smaller projects which were more time consuming. The research time decreased, but the amount of time in the field to complete the projects increased. The continuous requests for legal description reviews, are always a challenge to fit everything in.

Projects that were surveyed and required large portions of time in 2024 included: cemetery stakeouts for Benton and Harris Townships, a new cemetery survey and layout for Carroll Township, redraw and update of the Plat of Christy Chapel

Cemetery, proposed turn-around and right-of-way easement for Schiewe Road, 2300 foot Church Road Rehab Project and Fostoria Road section corner recovery and monumentation with Wood County from Camper Road to State Route #795, along with the typical excavation of 11 section corners and installing monument boxes prior to paving projects. In the midst of that, we continued updating and adding to the many layers in our GIS inventory, while covering multiple R & I inquiries, assisted the Townships with their needs, assisted with many utilities locates and permits. Legal description reviews were still a major part of the day to day operations.

Our staff continuously works to update our GIS map and develop new feature class layers that will someday not only assist our office, but also the Townships and constituents of Ottawa County. Our in-house GIS map has been a hit as we are able to provide up to date information. Many surveyors have been complimentary for this asset. We are finding that it is not only beneficial to County Offices, but to the private sector as well.



Ottawa County Engineer GIS Web Map

This interactive map allows the user to search for section corner / benchmark records, property surveys and subdivision plats. This GIS Data Map is available 24/7 on our website!

Visit our website at:
<http://www.co.ottawa.oh.us/index.php/county-engineer/>

The survey personnel are responsible for fieldwork and a significant amount of office assignments. The following provides additional information on these duties.

Subdivision Reviews	11 proposed subdivisions
Administrative Approvals	42 (35 small & 7 large)
Legal Description Reviews	756 (increased by 35 from 2023)
Requests & Investigations	93 (handled by all staff)
Township Requests	30 (handled by all staff)
E-File Reviews	1,173 (increased by 394 from 2023)

With all of the change at the end of 2024, the 2025 schedule is still in development. It will include continual section cornerstone and benchmark recovery and checks, and centerline monument recovery for paving projects.

Utility Coordination and Permits

The COVID Pandemic brought attention to the lack of internet accessibility to households, especially for those living in rural areas. Ohio responded by designating ARPA funds for the installation of fiber throughout the state. The fiber companies are taking advantage of the grant dollars and are pursuing installation of fiber optic cable throughout the state.

Ottawa County felt the impact in 2024 with first a flurry of permits submitted by OmniFiber. Their permits were for the installation of both aerial and buried fiber optic lines in several areas, mostly on the east end of the county. Frontier was another company that installed their infrastructure, aerial and in ground, on the east end of the county. Spectrum and Amplex soon followed with installation requests in the west end of the county. Aerial lines were placed on existing poles and buried cable was placed within the public rights of way. At the start of 2025 fiber companies have continued to file permits for additional locations within our county. It is expected that this trend will continue throughout the year.

With the installation of all the fiber optic lines along public rights of way, in addition to the gas, electric, water, and sewer lines, we are encouraging everyone to Call Before You Dig. Please call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service forty-eight hours before you penetrate or excavate the ground or set a sign post.

The installation of a waterline from Materion (Brush Wellman) to Elmore, via Portage River South Road, was completed in 2024.

1,991	Locate Tickets (OUPS)	68	Moving Permits
174	Road Crossing Permits (8 non-utility)	62	Cable/Fiber Permits
7	Right-of-Way Permits	9	Electric Company Permits
8	Storm Sewer Tap Permits	13	Gas Company Permits
1	Curtain Drain Outlet Permits	66	Driveway Permits (2 existing)

STAFF

Jeff Allen, Engineer Aide/Construct Inspect
 Ben Brady, Highway Worker
 Daniel Brough, Crew Leader
 Dean Brough, Highway Clerk
 Mike Brough, Utility Coordinator
 Wes Dobbelare, Crew Leader
 Joe Dusseau, Highway Worker
 Travis Focht, Highway Worker
 Kendra German, Accounting Clerk
 Micah Heintz, Highway Worker
 Dennis Huston, Highway Worker

Dante Kirsch, Highway Worker
 Joe Kopp, Mechanic
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 Tina Molnar, Administrative Assistant
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 David Williams, Mechanic
 Mike Wittman, PS, Chief Surveyor/GIS