

**EMPIRE TOWNSHIP  
LEELANAU COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**Upgrades to Seasonal and Unimproved Roads Policy**

**WHEREAS**, Empire Township has seasonal roads of which many are narrow, hilly and/or winding in nature, may not be open to vehicular traffic during the months of November through April, are remnants of the trail system that served horse and buggy traffic, and along with certain unimproved secondary roads, have never been upgraded or reconstructed to meet current road standards for width, surfacing or sight distance; and

**WHEREAS**, these roads provide access to many parcels of land that are currently vacant, wooded, or in agricultural production, and traffic on these roads is generally intermittent and infrequent; and

**WHEREAS**, encouraging or introducing additional traffic, including fire and rescue vehicles, onto these roads may not be in the best interest of the public or Empire Township because of the inherent danger of collisions due to the lack of sufficient width, surfacing and sight distance to accommodate two-way traffic and also because extensive traffic may destroy the basic roadbed or make it very difficult to maintain; and

**WHEREAS**, Empire Township does not have sufficient funding to improve these roads to support two-way or increased traffic.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Empire Township and the Leelanau County Road Commission will consider removing the status of a seasonal road and upgrade it to an improved road at 100% the cost of others. Consideration to remove the seasonal status of the road will be highly dependent upon the unique characteristics of the road and the Road Commission's equipment necessary to efficiently maintain that road.

Adopted by the Empire Township Board on September 10, 2019