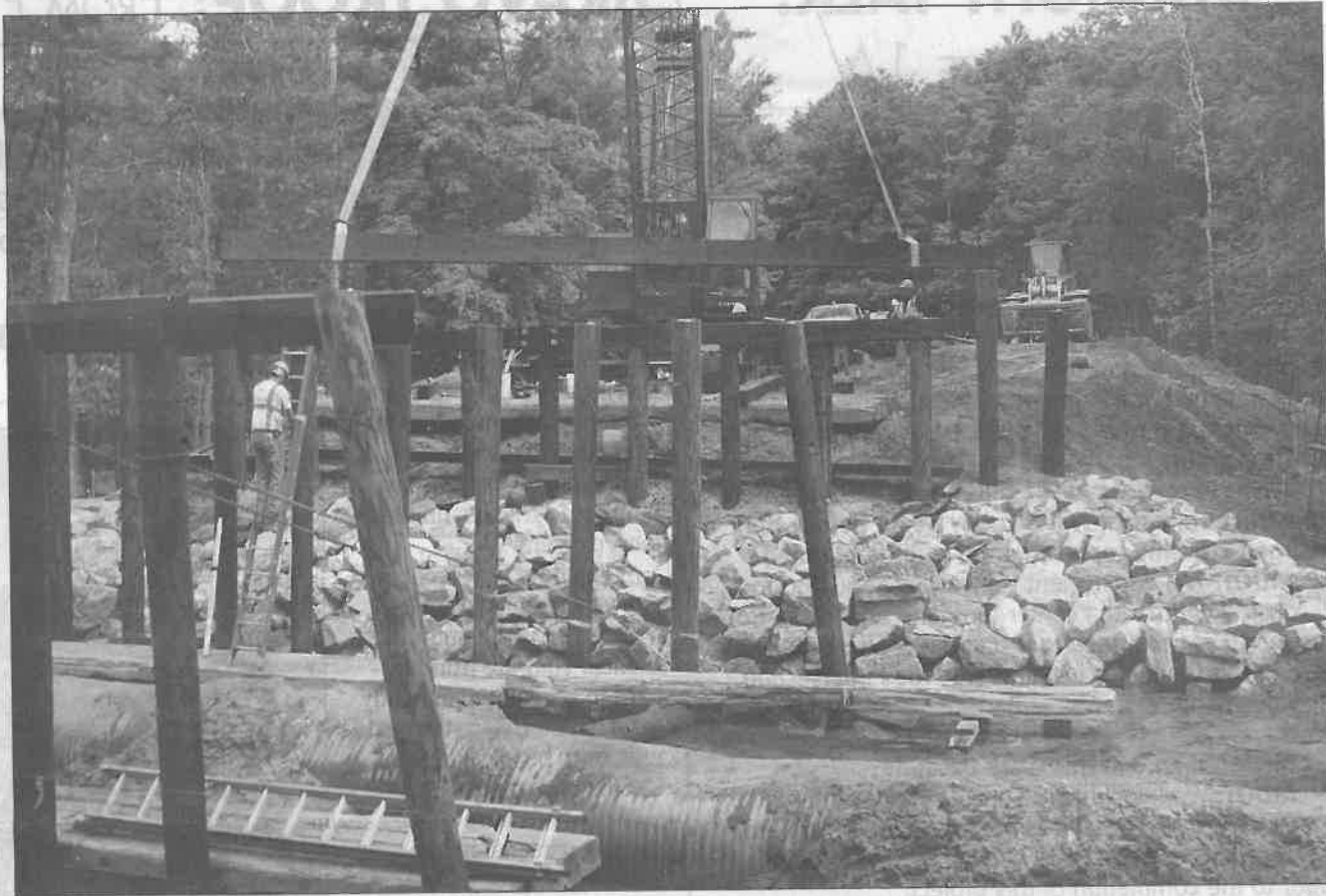


## REYNOLDS ROAD BRIDGE WORK



Photos by Roland Halliday/Pioneer News Network

Team Elmer's crew members using a Manitowoc lattice boom crawler crane moves a giant wood beam into place at the Reynolds Road Bridge. Work is expected to be completed by Sept. 14.

# Nearing an end

## Reynolds Road Bridge work slated to end Sept. 14

By ROLAND HALLIDAY  
PIONEER NEWS NETWORK

**HONOR** — About a month of work remains on construction of the Reynolds Road 72-foot timber bridge span over the Platte River.

Work is slated to be finished September 14, said engineer/manager Heather Jamison. It will be opened to traffic at the end of this month.

Grants from the Environmental Protection Agency and Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians to the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) in Traverse City are making the \$702,000 project possible.

Construction work on U.S. 31 in Benzonia is complete.

Entrances to the sheriff's office and the county courthouse along with highway resurfacing on this portion of U.S. 31 to the junction of M-115 were finished a month ahead of schedule.

Work on replacing the culvert on Stanley Road is nearly complete, superintendent Brad Schaub told Benzie County road commissioners. Work on Ladis Road crossing over Dair Creek will be starting soon. Tree clean up work, edging and summer projects continue. A second mowing of shoulders has started.

Commissioners approved buying a one ton Ford flatbed truck. It will come equipped with a V10 gas engine. Its lower gear ration will provide more power, said Schaub. A gas engine seems to have fewer problems than a diesel.

Cost of the 2013 model will be the same as the 2012 which is \$30,797 delivered. The purchase will be through the government MiDeal program which began in 1984.

Commissioners approved a request

to do an invasive plant treatment on Pearl Lake. They also okayed a chip seal/MDOT contract and resolution for Joyfield Road which will have both state and federal money for the \$30,985 project.

Commissioners accepted a high bid of \$105 for 11 old tires; and also accepted a \$377 bid from New Hope Church of Christ in Benzonia for an old small lawn tractor. They also approve Congregational Summer Assembly group paint a crosswalk on South Shore.

A right of way encroachment on Ash Avenue in Lake Township was approved for part of a house and a well. If the well ever needs to be replaced, it must be moved. This situation has existed for 32 years. The contract for Beuna Road in Blaine Township was approved.

Commissioner Roger Griner brought an M-22 road flooding problem in Frankfort to the board's attention. The recent rain caused water to flow on the road between the baseball field and the old highway department garage, now Frankfort Manufacturing.

He also mentioned he went out to Point Betsie Road and cars were parked on both sides with little room to get down the crumbling road. Since the National Lakeshore was named "The Most Beautiful Place in America," traffic has increased at the lighthouse.

Jamison said the county received certification that it has 180.25 miles of primary roads and 445.75 miles of local roads.

A preliminary 2013 road commission budget shows total revenues of \$6,015,756, an increase of \$983,916 or 19.6 percent above the current budget. Income from the state is up less than one percent. Contribution from CRA, DNR and the Grand Traverse Band are up \$493,500.

Heavy maintenance of primary roads (a reconstruction project of Grace Road in Gilmore Township) is up \$1.2 million. Maintenance for pri-



Construction of the Reynold Road Bridge is similar to the Burnt Mill Road crossing. The bridge and surrounding rock will help eliminate washouts into the Platte River. The Benzie Conservation District survey showed sites needing work around the county.

mary roads is down about \$86,000. Heavy maintenance for local roads decreased \$104,500 while maintenance for these roads is up \$102,162.

Total expenditures in this preliminary budget tally \$6,376,197. Fund balance money of \$360,441 will be used to cover the income shortfall. It will leave a fund balance of \$1,532,482 which is better than 24 percent of the budget. Last year's fund balance was just over 25 percent.

**Editor's Note:** Roland Halliday is a reporter for the Record Patriot and is finishing his term as Benzie County commissioner.