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PETOSKEY

Projects moving forward at Emmet County's Camp Petosega

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This sign marks an entrance to Emmet County's Camp Petosega park.

File photo//

ALANSON — Two ongoing construction projects at Camp Petosega are moving forward and could potentially wrap up before the end of the fall.

Officials are looking to move 16 campsites on the southeast corner of the county park's campground to a new section of the property, which is located southeast of Alanson, in order to get those sites out of the way of an existing

pipeline running underneath the campground. Earlier this year, commissioners awarded the initial phase of the project to Elmer's Crane and Dozer Inc. at a price of \$555,000.

According to reports this month, the construction company has paved the campground loop and installed the well, water lines and septic field. Electrical work is roughly 75 percent done, putting the project on track to wrap up by early November.

A new service building for the loop of campsites is also set to be constructed some time in the next few weeks.

"We are well within the timeline originally set for this project," county administrator John Calabrese said at a meeting of county officials late last week.

The project has been on the county's radar since summer 2018, when representatives from the energy company TransCanada informed officials that the campsites on the south end of Camp Petosega along Pickerel Lake were too close in proximity to a pair of natural gas pipelines.

Those sites were within the "300 foot safety buffer" that is mandated between a pipeline and any permanent structure, per U.S. Department of Transportation regulations.

As a result, TransCanada is paying \$1.6 million for for the county to remove the sites and rebuild them further away. That payment is intended to cover construction costs, as well as electrical work, reimbursable expenses and projected losses in revenue that result from closing the sites during camping season.

Meanwhile, the county is just getting started on Phase II of the relocation project, which involves building a restroom and utility building to accommodate the new campsites.

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The county rebid that portion of the project a second time, eventually landing on a \$559,000 price tag for that component. Those contracts were finalized at the start of this month, with construction slated to begin immediately.

The county is entering the permitting phase on a separate project at the campground — replacing two footbridges which cross over Cedar Creek.

County officials have received approval from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to begin the project, which is slated to begin in the spring, with a majority of the work being done in-house by county employees.

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