STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP—With a blacktop plant in the area for the fall, the Stambaugh Township Board, at its Sept. 5 meeting, brought up the possibility of completing a portion of East Brule Road.

The road is currently scheduled to be blacktopped in 2013.

Supervisor Eugene Pellizzaro said that Iron County Road Commission Superintendent Doug Tomasoski would be putting bids together for other municipalities and would get one for East Brule Road as well.

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With an expected estimate cost of $90,000, Pellizzaro told the board that there is not enough money in the road fund, but it could transfer from the budget stabilization fund, which holds $136,000.

Pellizzaro told the board it would be against his better judgment to do the work this year.

His suggestion was to give the gravel work time to settle over the winter and complete the blacktopping in the spring or summer.

This was done on Scott Lake Road, he said, with good results. The township will wait for the bid and then decide.

The board unanimously approved pay increases for several township employees. General labor and the zoning administrator received a 3 percent raise; the Board of Review increased from $12.30 to $12.50 per hour and election workers went from $11.45 to $12.50 per hour, with the chairman increasing from $11.85 to $13.

Also discussed was the Iron County Board's possible conversion from Manatron computer software to BS&A software.

According to a letter from the County Board, comments are being sought from municipalities that must have compatible software. The switch would save both time and money, the letter said.

BS&A is the most commonly used computer program, with only 3 percent of Michigan townships not utilizing it, according to the Michigan Township Association.

The conversion would cost Stambaugh Township over $6,000 since the township recently purchased Manatron software to be compatible with the county.

Clerk Theresa Baumgartner was directed to look into propane pre-buy prices as well as prices on 500-gallon propane tanks.

The township hopes to purchase a new tank each year, eventually owning all four of its propane tanks.

Trustee George Brunswick updated on the 2012 Iron County Fair.

Schmidt Amusements had its second best year in 26 years, according to Brunswick, with the fair receiving a percentage of that revenue.

Despite the loss of $30,000 from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Iron County Board, he said the Fair Board was able to pay out 100 percent of premiums, approximately $12,000.

They were also able to pay off a $6,500 bill for blacktop work done at the lower arena.

Have a comment? E-mail your 50-word or less message to news@ironcountyreporter.com .