

**MINUTES of a TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION:
Neighborhood Meeting – Mishawaka Road
April 20, 2011 – Harris Town Hall**

The Harris Town Board met on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at the Harris Town Hall for a work session / neighborhood meeting with Mishawaka Road residents. The purpose of this work session was to:

- Discuss the proposed reconstruction of Mishawaka road in its existing location with residents of the road, and to review the potential impacts to their properties.

The work session began at 7:30pm and the following officers were present: Supervisors Dennis Kortekaas, Gary Rosato, and Larry Key, and Clerk Michele Smith. Absent: Treasurer Becky Adams.

Also in attendance was Julie Kennedy - Township Road Engineer, and approximately 10 road residents (please see attached sign in sheet copy for names.)

The work session was called to order at 7:30pm by Chairman Rosato, and then turned over to Julie Kennedy, Road Engineer from SEH:

Project Presentation (Julie Kennedy, Township Engineer)

Julie explained that this was a neighborhood meeting for residents of Mishawaka Road, for a road construction project being proposed for Mishawaka Road this summer of 2011.

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to inform residents of what's going on with the proposed improvements, and to discuss potential impacts to their property.

Recap of project:

What had been discussed at earlier Mishawaka Road meetings was recapped, and Julie shared a large map of Mishawaka Road, and the location of road improvements, with the residents and board.

1. Proposed Improvements (estimated cost = \$285,000)

a. Reclaim and overlay (starting from corner near landing, north to town line)

This process is what is typically done with township roads. Reclaim is where the top 6" of bituminous is ground up with any class V, and re-laid. Then it's overlaid with 2" of new bituminous.

b. Partial Reconstruction (where needed)

In areas where there is a bad culvert and surrounding soils are poor, the bad soils need to be taken out and replaced with good soil. And there are at least two "bad" areas on the north/south portion of Mishawaka Road where this partial reconstruction process would be needed.

c. Drainage improvements (where needed)

i. Culverts

For improved drainage by way of the existing culverts, soils borings show that reconstruction will probably be needed.

d. *Traffic calming*

In order to reduce the speed along Mishawaka Road, especially in the densely populated area, the following will be used:

- i. *Striping* – A double center yellow line is used, with white fog lines placed as close as possible to center line. Doing this makes the road appear narrower to drivers and slows them down. It also helps people walking on the side of the road feel safer, as there's a wider shoulder to walk on.
- ii. *Speed humps* (different than a speed bump) – These are humps placed on the roadway, which are only 3" high, and more rolling in nature than a speed 'bump'. They are meant to keep people going over it at 15 mph, and 25-30 mph in between speed humps. If a person goes over one too fast, they know it – causing the self regulating action the next time they approach one. 3 are being proposed.

Project add-on considerations:

Julie explained that there are 2 add-on options being considered by the board, for which they requested resident input on:

1. Ditching, so that proper crowning on the road can be done. Cost would be apx \$75,000.
2. Sod or gravel shoulders? (Cost would be about the same for either option.)

Note: A 3rd add-on option had been proposed by Julie, regarding additional parking near the public landing on the non-lakeside, inside corner. However, the board was not in favor of pursuing that option. Instead, they are discussing that signs will be posted, and enforced (ticketing/towing) to prevent illegal parking at the landing. Ditching may also discourage parking.

Ditching discussions:

Residents were invited to discuss with Julie any concerns they had regarding troublesome drainage, and their area of the road. 3 residents met with Julie prior to tonight's meeting, and one sent in an email. However, no resident in attendance expressed any major concern regarding lack of proper drainage along Mishawaka Road. Supervisor Kortekaas recapped by asking again if there were any concerns with how road is now, regarding drainage. The consensus from those in attendance was "no".

Some questions on ditching were posed by residents and answered by Julie as follows:

Q: How deep with the ditches be? (If a person has to jump out of the way of a car, what will they be jumping into/over?)

A: Apx 2 feet (using a 3 to 1 grade)

Q: How many easements are needed to do ditching?

A: 19 easements would be needed (some permanent, and some temporary) in order to do the necessary ditching, should crowning of the road be done (rather than cross-sloping). At least 2 people had given Julie permission for a permanent easement.

Q: If ditching is done, will the utility lines need to be moved?

A: Yes, power lines will be moved – even if ditching is not done. Public Utilities has been contacted. They were not sure if lines would go underground or if they would just move the poles. It is their choice, once they see the construction plans.

Shouldering discussion: Gravel vs. sod

From those who talked to Julie in advance, all were in favor of gravel shouldering. The people in attendance at tonight's also preferred the idea of gravel shoulders. Julie agreed, as gravel would give the appearance of a larger walking area, between the fog line and the start of someone's lawn.

Next steps:

The town board thanked residents for coming to the meeting tonight and voicing their opinions. They will take them into consideration when deciding on the two add-on options at the April 27th P&D meeting. Once officially decided on, it will take about 6 weeks to bid the job, per Julie. She hopes the construction will start right after the 4th of July.

During construction, residents can expect about 2 days to reclaim, 1-2 days for grading, and 2-3 to pave. These would take place over a 2 week period. A memo will be sent to residents, by Julie, when the schedule of work has been determined.

The work session adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Harris Township Clerk