

**Minutes for Neighborhood Meeting on
Underwood Road, Harbor Heights Road & Lakeview Drive
July 2, 2014 at Harris Town Hall**

The Harris Town Board met on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at the Harris Town Hall for a neighborhood meeting work session with residents of Underwood Road, Harbor Heights Road, and Lakeview Drive. The purpose of this work session was as follows:

- The purpose of this work session is to meet with road residents to update them on the proposed 2014 township road improvement projects for Underwood Road (east and west), Harbor Heights and Lakeview Drive, and to hear their questions, concerns or comments on the impact of such projects.

The work session began at 7:00pm and the following officers were present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Larry Key, Dennis Kortekaas, Jim Kelley, and Burl Ives as well as Clerk Michele Smith. *Absent: Treasurer Becky Adams.*

Also in attendance were Glen Hodgson - Township Road Engineer from SEH, and approximately 15-20 residents. Hodgson noted that he sent out letters of invite to all residents of Underwood Road, Harbor Heights Road, and Lakeview Drive as well as Lakeview Trail.

The work session was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Rosato, who recapped the purpose of tonight's meeting and then turned it over to Glen Hodgson, who led the meeting in accordance with the agenda prepared by the Clerk:

1. Pledge to the flag followed by the reading of the Harris Township Mission Statement

2. Road project plan updates - Glen Hodgson, SEH Engineer

1. Underwood west (of Wendigo Park Road)

- a. 2-3 residents in attendance from this area of the road
- b. No paving improvements are planned for this year. The water needs to be controlled before any paving improvements could be done. Water was within a foot of the pavement – which saturated the soil, making it weak and as a result, any overlays would not last. The goal is to make drainage improvements to have less saturated subsoil and then the board could consider an overlay.
- c. Hodgson is continuing to work on the wetland issues, but things are getting more and more complicated by the week due to wetlands will be destroyed if ditching is done. And while Hodgson hoped to be able to do something this summer, there appears to a lot of hoops that need to be jumped through before any improvements to drainage can be done.
- d. Per a resident: West side drainage issue is partially due to beaver dams, in the back of Mostellor's place (on left hand side going in) but located on Gunderson's property. Water is not flowing and the dams need to be broken up. However, Mostellor likes the water, and will not allow the crossing of his property to get to the dams. Glen asked to meet with the resident to see the issue; he agreed.
- e. A resident asked if the pot holes on Underwood west would be filled in as some are quite large. Supervisor Key agreed to have the maintenance crew fill them in.

2. Underwood east (of Wendigo Park Road)

- a. Apx 5 people were in attendance from this section of the road
- b. Hodgson recapped that a bituminous reclaim project is planned, and the process was explained. He also commented that the road corings showed good material there, but that the pavement on top is old and deteriorating. When the road is completed, Hodgson estimated that the road should have a 30-40 year life.

- c. Due to the size of reclaim machinery, resident mailboxes will be temporary moved and set up at one location – for postal delivery. They will be reinstalled in the former location, but on swing-away mounts as is standard on county and many township road projects.
- d. The plan is also to change out the traffic signs – depending on project cost.
- e. Access in and out will be maintained to every residence, but there will be some minor inconveniences.
- f. A resident expressed a drainage issue he was concerned about. He lives on the corner and gets a lot of water in his front yard. Supervisor Key and Hodgson have looked at it, and tried to get a drainage easement to the west, but have been unsuccessful. Ditching was discussed and requested by resident. However, Hodgson commented that the paving project can proceed regardless of the resident's water issue, as drainage will not be altered by the proposed road project. Instead, Hodgson recommended that the resident's water issue be a separate project. The board agreed to follow up on this issue and look at alternate solutions.
- g. Another resident expressed a concern of traffic driving too fast on this section of Underwood Road, and anticipated it would only get worse with new pavement. He asked if speed humps would be an option to slow traffic. Board commented that this is a common issue on many roads but that enforcement may be the issue. Hodgson couldn't professionally recommend speed humps on this road. The board commented that they were put on Mishawaka due to the high density and narrowness of the road, and the amount of traffic and pedestrians on the road. This was not the case on Underwood east.
- h. A resident asked about two driveway culverts that are filled with sand; he wondered if he was responsible to clean them out, or was the township? Hodgson noted that there was no culvert work included in this project. However, upon request of the board, he agreed to go look at the issue at 28728 Underwood Road.

3. Harbor Heights Road

- a. Apx 5 residents from this road were in attendance
- b. Hodgson recapped that a bituminous reclaim project is planned for this road as well, and the process was explained. The corings done in the road revealed that there is much less material there than they need for a reclaim, so they will have to haul in 2-3" inches of materials to make a good base. The result will be a 6" base of gravel and reclaimed material, under 4" new bituminous surface.
- c. To avoid raising the road height, Hodgson explained that after the reclaim grinding up process is done, the material will be wind-rowed to one side and then some of the base will be removed so that when it's completed, it will be at the same level as before – and at the same level with the driveways. A resident - Dick Ziegler, the 4th driveway in on south side - had concern of drainage if road bed was raised. Glen will check out the situation.
- d. One culvert before corner will be replaced, and after the corner, the low spot will have a catch basin to get rid of water on the road.
- e. New mail boxes supports will also be installed, as well as new road signs.
- f. Regarding the turnaround, Hodgson explained that he just heard from the land owner that he is not willing to do a formal easement as the property is up for sale. Therefore, minimal work will be done on the turnaround.
- g. Some residents asked about the new road and entrances to their driveways. Hodgson explained how they will go back 5', and tie into the existing bituminous driveway and match the grade.
- h. Someone asked about people he noticed who were digging out near the lake and appear to be developing a road near "Gracie's island". It is private property, however, so it may be okay but lake issues may exist. The board advised that this would be subject to county's shoreland zoning regulations, but is not a township issue.

- i. Mike Tok commented that he recently put in a sprinkler system, and several sprinkler heads are close to the road - including one by Namcheck's mailbox. Hodgson advised that the resident mark them, and the contractor will miss them.
- j. Drainage was discussed; the road slope and "banking" the pavement will be looked into, but there will be no drainage "flumes" – per Hodgson.
- k. A resident asked if sod replaced after the reclaim. Hodgson said they would restore the turf.

4. Lakeview Drive

- a. Apx 5 residents in attendance
 - b. Hodgson recapped that a bituminous reclaim project is planned for this road as well, and the process was explained. With 4" new blacktop, the road will be 2" higher than it is now.
 - c. Regarding the new road and entrances to their driveways, Hodgson explained how they will go back 5', and tie into the existing bituminous driveway and match the grade.
 - d. Drainage improvements are planned – as you go into the road, across from Burgraff's, they will cut into the hill – going back up to 22' - and make a shallow ditch. This will keep water in the ditch and not on the road. It will also provide an area for snow and improve visibility around corner. It will continue to Ed Varin's former property, and drain down to John Maturi's. Culverts will be replaced as needed, so no French drain should be necessary per Hodgson.
 - e. Also, a bituminous flume will be put in all the way up the hill. Will also crown road to keep water on the north side, until it gets to the culvert.
 - f. A resident asked about the rocks and gravel that washes down from Lakeview Trail onto Lakeview Drive, but Hodgson explained that the township's road project will not affect that issue. He added that Lakeview Trail will probably need to be paved at some point – but that it is a private road (not a township road). Rosato noted that there is a culvert that drains into the development on Lakeview Trail – but none under the road.
 - g. Mailboxes will be need to be moved, but will be put back where they came from, with swing away supports. Burgraff's brick "monument" style mailbox holder was discussed. Hodgson said he has had discussions with the landowner but no conclusions have been determined. Liability issues continue to be a concern of the board.
5. There were various casual discussions between residents, Hodgson, and the board.
6. The timeframe of the road projects was discussed:
- a. Hodgson will bring final project plans to the July 9th Regular Board Meeting for approval by the board, as well as authorization to go out for bids.
 - b. Bids will be due back to SEH by August 4th and will be opened and reviewed by Hodgson. He will then present the bids and a recommendation for award at the Regular Meeting on August 13th. However, Hodgson suggested that to gain a week's time for the project, the board could call a special meeting on the week of August 4th to award the bid. The Clerk was asked to put this option the agenda of the upcoming July 9th meeting.
 - c. All 3 road projects will bid together, and should be completed in 2-3 days once construction starts.

4. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn tonight's work session was made by Supervisor Ives at 8:18 p.m. Upon a second by Supervisor Kelley, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Smith – Clerk of Harris Township