

**MINUTES from the P&D Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:30pm**

The P&D Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Dennis Kortekaas and Larry Key, and Clerk Michele Smith. Absent: Treasurer John Jokela

Also in attendance: Richard Gunderson - Root Road resident and Julie Kennedy – SEH Township Engineer.

1. Pledge to the flag

2. Underwood Road Turnaround - Update on the site visit, held tonight at 6:30pm

At the site visit tonight were Dick Gunderson, Doug & Mary Gunderson, Kent Baril, Tom Osborn, Supervisors Larry Key and Gary Rosato, and Julie Kennedy. Absent: Supervisor Kortekaas, Clerk Smith and Treasurer Jokela. Attorney Shaw was also not able to attend, as he was out of town.

Julie gave a recap of the site visit. They went through the revised drawing of the turn around location, and noted that Doug Gunderson's driveway was now within the township ROW. Everyone there appeared to be in agreement verbally, with the concept drawing; no revisions were recommended.

Consideration is being given by Doug for the additional 15 feet for a ROW, but it may be reduced to 10'. Doug will consider the feasibility of granting a ROW, and how it will impact his property. Location of mail boxes was also discussed.

With regards to the ROW abandonment, it was recommended to abandon the area as marked on the map, ending at the section line. All interest parties at the site visit seemed to be in agreement, and so Julie recommends proceeding with abandonment according to area on map. **The entire Board was in agreement that Andy proceed with the abandonment area as proposed, in accordance with their motion to abandon this area of the Underwood Road ROW during the Public Hearing held on May 20, 2009.**

Vern Reynolds talked to Julie today and said he had no issues with the abandonment, and felt there was no need for him to be at the meeting tonight.

3. Business from the Floor

- None

4. Roads

- Underwood Road reconstruction project:

Estimated costs to construct the turn around on Underwood Road and two options to fix Underwood Road from the turn around to Wendigo Park Road were reviewed at last Regular meeting, held June 10, 2009; Julie brought Braun Intertec's report from soil borings done in order to determine what was in and below the Underwood Road surface. In summary, the report said that the road bed was suitable for reuse as road subgrade. However, ground water was observed at 4 feet and "organics" were found – which will continue to decay, and cause the road bed to heave.

Braun recommends getting rid of "organics" via sub cut. This could be a between 2 ½ and 4' deep cut, and that material could then be used to fill the road back in.

A new estimate would need to be done to reclaim top 6", get rid of the organics, and then salvage the road bed. It's going to be expensive.

Julie's comments: It makes most sense to do the road and cul-de-sac together – it's a good size project to bid. The project could be bid in August, and construction done in Sept/Oct if the Board wanted to do both projects together & yet this year. However, from an economic standpoint, it'll probably more cost effective to bid in the spring and construct in June. It was estimated to cost around \$500,000 to do both the cul de sac and road projects.

Supervisor Rosato had some concerns about opening up the road, especially with ground water at 4 feet. He felt that even if we got rid of the organics, there would still be water.

Julie would like time to study the boring results with a person well versed in geo-technics (Mark Hawkinson). He could help determine the rate of decay of the organics.

It was discussed that the Underwood Road was constructed and overlaid around 1990, and has lasted 20 years – though it's been bad for the last 10 years or so. There are 15 – 20 homes on the road. Doing an overlay may not be so bad – and could be money ahead, even if it had to be done again in 20 years.

Overall, Julie commented that given the results from Braun, this project needs more consideration. She agrees that getting rid of organics will not solve problem of water, and the fact that it runs through a swamp. Supervisor Key agreed, and would like to wait on a decision. Given the cost of the project, he felt good justification is warranted for whatever decision is made.

Julie did recommend doing something this year to help out Valerie's, where the drainage of this area of Underwood Road now goes. Water goes down road, and into her yard rather than into the ditch. It was discussed that the maintenance crew could scrape sod off edge of the blacktop, to allow the water to drain off the road. Also, there's a lot of sand on the road, which is a safety issue as cars can't stop. Also noted was that ice is bad on this part of the road, notably in the spring.

Mark Hawkinson and Julie will come up with a revised cost estimate, for bid next spring. Julie will check into the fabric that goes on over the top of paved roads, or between layers of bituminous, as seen by Supervisor Key and Dick Gunderson.

- Update on meeting held today on Sunny Beach Road / drainage concerns

In attendance at the meeting on Sunny Beach Road drainage were: Todd Christenson of Oak Island Estates, his attorney Jerry Ophoven, Nadine Hopkins, Don Dewy, and Karen Grandia from Itasca County, residents Jeff and Cindy Kaiser, resident John Persons, Township Supervisor Key and Julie Kennedy, SEH Engineer for the Township.

The group looked at two issues. One was the culvert that drains onto Kaiser's property. It was agreed by Todd Christianson that he will bulk-head (sac-crete) the end of the culvert which will assure no more water drains onto Kaiser's property. Jeff and Cindy Kaiser agreed that this should solve the problem.

The second issue was the flooding on the north side of Sunny Beach Road. Pictures were shared by John Persons, showing the effects of the flooding. These helped everyone visualize why he had concerns. When the pond on the north side of the road floods, it causes water to come up over Sunny Beach Road. It was discussed that water coming off Katherine Drive, of Oak Island Estates, doesn't make it to the ditch and may impact the flooding.

Julie stated that she didn't feel the construction of Oak Island Estates made matters worse for the north side Sunny Beach Road. She recommended that the township hold off on making any decisions as once the culvert is blockheaded, there may not be an issue any more.

It was discussed that the Township could do some minor ditching around the Sunny Beach Road near this corner to help drainage. However, Julie noted that cleaning the ditch would direct water into the pond that's flooding and could make matters worse. Therefore, it was recommended that cleaning the ditch should wait until next year.

In conclusion, it was stated that everyone left the meeting feeling okay, but not totally satisfied - especially Person's. He's in the low spot, on the north side of Sunny Beach Road, and in line with the natural drainage path of any water.

No further action was needed, nor any other meetings scheduled. Christianson will do his work on the culvert, and Don Dewy will check it.

- Wendigo Park Road: Issues with ROW easements from Lake Country Power (LCP).

LCP wants to replace their 30 year old underground power lines along Wendigo Park Road. However, they want to place them outside the township ROW (deeper, towards homes) due to frost. As a result, they are requesting easements from private property owners, including the township for the Service Center/Cemetery property along Wendigo Park Road. Plans for the placement of the lines and the easement requests have been revised twice, based on conversations with the township (Julie/Larry).

In reviewing her personal ROW easement request (she also lives along Wendigo Park Road), Julie found the legal descriptions to be ambiguous. Also the line-up of the easements are not contiguous – and not in a straight line. It was noted that this isn't really a township issue, as LCP should be in the ROW. But, if this is affecting many of the township residents, perhaps the Board could host / facilitate a town meeting for the involved residents and LCP.

The Board agreed with Julie trying to clarify with LCP about the legal descriptions and a contiguous nature between properties, and is aware that doing so may end up with the township facilitating a meeting.

- Class 5 project update (Julie);

Casper Construction got the bid for the Class 5 gravel project and did the work. DCP testing is now being done to make sure that an acceptable grade of Class 5 was used on the roads. Wagon Wheel – passed. Bear Creek – had a complaint that it looked sandy and tests failed twice and so the road failed. Casper bladed in crushed rock. The same spot was retested and it failed again near cul de sac, but passed in other areas on the road. Other roads in the Class 5 project are now being tested; when Julie knows the results, she will let the Board know.

The Root Road was one of those in this project. Dick Gunderson, who was in the audience, said it looked good. Supervisor Key noted that there was an issue with the culvert popping up on Root Road – not much coverage. Casper will be notified.

- Sunny Beach Addition Road Turnaround

Supervisor Key received a call from a resident who lived on Sunny Beach Addition Road, This is a road that is $\frac{3}{4}$ blacked topped, and then turns to gravel, past the end of maintenance area. Since the County can't turn around at the end of the Township portion of the road, we pay for maintenance on the entire road, so they can turn around at the end of the road. The resident (Pete Hengel) hauled in dirt to make the transition between the paved and gravel roads smoother, but requested the township fix this area, in good faith for using his road for a turn around.

Julie suggested doing a change order to the Class 5 Road Project with Casper and add the Sunny Beach Addition to the list of roads for the same unit price. The county shows the road length to be .35 miles long total. Larry will measure the gravel portion of the road (width and length) and advise Julie accordingly.

- Woodbine Road cul de sac

A resident of Woodbine Road called and requested some large holes be filled on the road's cul-de-sac. Part of it is gravel, and part of it is blacktop.

The board discussed that we need to determine the size of the turn around ROW, to determine if the holes are on township or private property.

Julie commented that this area is a fairly recent plat, so pins of corners should still be there. The board asked Julie to check into it, and she agreed. If she finds it's going to be an expensive research project, she'll get back to the Board.

- Harbor Heights Road

A call from a resident of Harbor Heights Road (Bob Olson) asked if we can drop some gravel on the turnaround of Harbor Heights Road. He felt a couple small truck loads would do.

The Board discussed that the township does not own this turnaround, Ernie Jacobson does. However, he has verbally agreed to allow a temporary easement for a public turnaround. Therefore, we have maintained it. Supervisor Key will check into adding some gravel to this turnaround.

5. Recreation

- Update on moving the new Crystal Park warming house

The warming house was moved out of the GRHS garage today, and is currently sitting on a trailer at the high school. It will depart at 9:00am tomorrow, with a police/sheriff escort through town and out to Crystal Park.

Supervisor Key would like to acknowledge everyone who's helped with this moving project, including Pokegama Lawn & Sport (supplying a fork truck), Rapids Rental (hauling trailer),

Northside lumber (lifted the building so we could put it on the trailer), Dan Bredemus – Construction Class teacher, Hawkinson Construction (providing as ASV to help unload) the Sheriff's office (escort), Grand Rapid Public Utilities (boom truck) and Mike Hendricks, who helped organize the project from start to finish. Clerk Smith suggested putting a thank you notice and photo in the Grand Rapids Herald Review might be a good idea for this. The board agreed.

6. Town Hall Report

- None

7. Maintenance Report

- Consider ratifying the hiring of a new summer intern maintenance worker (to replace Alex S.)

Supervisor Rosato made a motion to approve the hiring of Gary Perrington as the new summer intern for the Maintenance Crew. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and upon roll call, passed unanimously.

There was no maintenance report to review as the crew was very busy getting things ready for the Centennial Celebration coming up.

8. Old Business

- Centennial updates:
 - Supervisor Kortekaas reported that there are 3 portable toilets coming for Centennial; he is still working on getting dumpster.
 - Supervisor Rosato does not have a sound system but will check with Rapids Rental.
 - Supervisor Key stated that a 30 gallon cooler has been reserved at Rapids Rental for water
 - Clerk Smith said the township newsletter should be mailed out tomorrow, with the front page advertising for the centennial.

9. New Business

- Thefts in Blackberry Cemetery

Clerk Smith was contacted by Blackberry Township that they'd had a lot of nice flower baskets stolen from their cemetery. They have a lead on a person who might be doing it, and asked that if anything is noticed stolen or missing from Harris, to please call Mary Hanson or the Sheriff. Also, to be on the lookout for a blue truck, often with a trailer and lawnmower.
- MAT 2009 Summer Short Course

The short course will *not* be in Grand Rapids this summer. It will be held on July 30 in Walker and on July 31 in Carlton. Registration is at 8:00am. The township can save \$10/registration if it is sent in advance. However, none of the officers thought they'd be going.
- Board of Equalization training

Supervisor Key was notified that there will be training through Itasca County for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization on Oct 15th. He felt it would be beneficial for the board to attend a training put on by our local county. When he gets additional details, Key will bring it to the Board.

10. Adjourn

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Rosato to adjourn 9:35pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Clerk