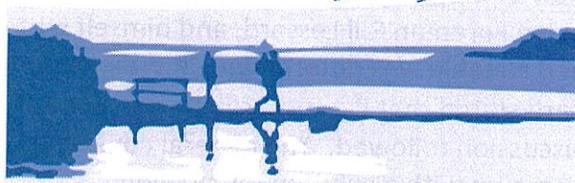


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Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Mission Statement:

The Harris Town Board strives to enhance the quality of life, protect the environment, and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.

www.harristownshipmn.org

Stony Point Road Work Session

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

7:00 pm

Harris Town Hall

Present: Chair Ken Haubrich, Vice Chair Peggy Clayton, Supervisor Jim Kelley, Supervisor Mike Schack, and Supervisor Dennis Kortekaas

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ken Haubrich at 7:00 pm.

Pledge to the Flag was conducted.

Chair Haubrich welcomed the group of six to the meeting, and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to answer any questions they may have regarding the recent Annexation on Stony Point Road, and to discuss and hopefully come to some agreement with the constituents in that area, on a possible easement and turn-around for plowing.

Plowing has always been an issue on Stony Point. Over the 2019–2020 winter the County has been unable to plow that area due to not having a turnaround (without turning around in an individuals driveway/property). The county trucks have increased in size, and without a viable turn-around, the township needed to take over the plowing of the road.

The Annexation has passed, via Resolution, and the Itasca County Board, at their July 28, 2020 Meeting, finalized the Annexation and all paperwork has been submitted to the state. The timing is right for Harris Township to make changes in how that road will be plowed.

Mike Hendrix spoke on how plowing has been handled over the last 40 years. In the last 4 to 5 years, according to Mike, the County has changed their plowing route and policy, so Stony Point is not being plowed right away. The road has not been sanded like it has been (in the past) which has created problems for constituents to make it up the hill. Residents had talked about a turnaround in the past, but had never come to any agreement with this taking place.

Rob Chopp asked the board what the purpose of tonight's meeting was, and how was the road going to be plowed. He did ask the Board if there was any plan in place. Discussion followed.

Chair Haubrich stated that the meeting was to discuss a turn-around, as a solution to plowing the road. Chair Haubrich did mention that last fall Dr. Novak had agreed to allow the County plow to turn around in his driveway, with the stipulation that if the cement slab/driveway was damaged, he would be willing to split the cost between the County/Township and himself for repair/replacement. That agreement then changed and so it was no longer on the table. The County also was not an agreement, therefore, a different solution needed to be made.

Supervisor Kelley gave a brief overview of the plowing situation, and further added that in the fall of 2019, Chair Haubrich, County Road and Bridge Foreman Bill Lessard, and himself met on Stony Point to discuss a possible turnaround. An area deemed suitable was determined, and measurements were taken. It was at that time that District Foreman Lessard stated that if a turnaround was put into place, they would be able to come in and plow/sand the road. Discussion followed. The general consensus of those in attendance was that they wanted to see the Board come up with a solution on plowing.

Chair Haubrich suggested the board recess and reconvene on Stony Point Road to look at a possible turnaround site.

A motion was made by a Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas to recess the meeting and reconvene on Stony Point Road. Motion carried. Meeting was recessed at 7:31 pm.

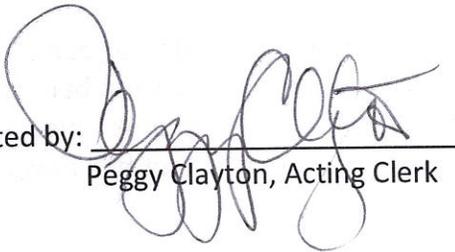
The meeting was reconvened at 7:47 pm on Stony Point Road.

Dr. Novak was able to be present during the site visit, and stated that his intentions were to work with constituents and the Board on a plausible turn-around, and to do what was best for those on Stony Point.

After discussions, the area (in question) which was designated as a turn-around, was agreed upon by Dr. Novak. The turn-around would need to be constructed on his land, therefore an easement would need to be put into place. Those constituents present were also in agreement with the turn-around and location. Chair Haubrich stated that a street light could also be installed, which would be beneficial for those living on the road, and would also take care of any "riff-raff". During the summer months, snow fencing could also be put in place to block off the turn-around, if need be.

Chair Haubrich, and the Board were in agreement that all costs borne would be paid for by the township. The township would proceed with an easement, etc., as the constituents were in agreement with this proposal. Chair Haubrich stated the board would place this item on the August 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda, and the process would begin.

There being no further discussion to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Kelley, and seconded by Supervisor Clayton to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by: 
Peggy Clayton, Acting Clerk

Signed by: 
Ken Haubrich, Chair