

Woodrow Township

Special Meeting on Road Feasibility and Administrative Matters

February 2, 2024

Chairman Dave Tanner called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at the Woodrow Township Hall. Supervisor Colter Peterson, Supervisor Gordy Reher, Clerk Cathy Dietrich, and Treasurer Tim Mueller were in attendance. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first agenda item is administrative matters. Supervisor 1, Dave Tanner is stepping down. Dave has written a letter of resignation to the Board. The letter is read during this meeting, "There's a time for everything, and now seems to be the appropriate time for me to step aside as a member of the Township Board. It's been a great privilege to work with the Town Board as well as others, not necessarily on the Board. We can all be pleased with the contributions to the residents of Woodrow Township. It takes time and energy to fulfill the duties of the offices to which we've been elected and at this point I believe that someone younger would be in a better position to perform these duties. I'm returning my township files and computer to Cathy, which I have done already, and I will be available for follow-up questions if you have any. So, my best wishes to you and to you. It's been a pleasure working with you. Thank you."

During the last few months, the Board has looked at replacements for the Supervisor 1 position. A decision was made to appoint Scott Wold as Supervisor 1. This position is appointed through the end of 12/31/2024 which finishes out the 4-year term. Supervisor 1 position will be on the ballot in November 2024 during the General Election.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson to appoint Scott Wold as Supervisor 1 through 12/31/2024.

Clerk Dietrich administered the Oath of Office to Scott Wold.

The second agenda item is road feasibility. On September 13, 2022, the board agreed to investigate the matter of long-term planning for road maintenance. This is due to an impending shortage of class 5 gravel, and the expenses involved in hauling that material in, the board decided to investigate alternative possibilities. This meeting is to continue with that process.

Presently there are about 40 miles of gravel roads the township maintains. There are 3 roads, Buxton, Interlachen/Evergreen, and Timber Drive use between 15 and 20 percent of the total gravel that the township applies just for those three roads. The township started to look at paving for an initial plan but are looking at a different process and so the initial paving plan for Timber Drive was withdrawn. The township continues to look at paving the 3 roads and there have been feasibility studies done for Buxton and Interlachen/Evergreen, but Timber Drive has not been finished, instead we have the real numbers from 2023 initial plan.

The feasibility studies done indicated that it is feasible, that there are benefits in paving, the benefits apply to each of the properties on those roads, there is a property valuation increase due to the

improvement of the road, and the valuation increase, and cost of paving are at least offset. Per the County, Property taxes for valuation increases due to road improvements are minimal.

Chris Sonmor, the Engineer from Sonmor Consulting was asked to provide some context on next steps in process. There are public hearings that we need to hold to meet the requirements of the statute and policies for a capital improvement plan (CIP) and assessment process. Township attorney will be involved. The township could look for any grant money such as MnDOT's Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), but then this would increase cost and the state dictates how the road is structured. Also, there are a lot of intricacies with these project plans since some of the roads are in multiple townships which require more planning and legal counsel.

Supervisor Reher explains the township is looking at long-term planning and funding operation. Holding hearings, meetings, planning, etc. can be more than a 2-year process. The first step is setting a policy for CIP and assessments. With the policies, it can be used across all the roads, everyone treated the same, and can be based on valuation or per foot on front edge of road or size of property. The county prefers that all these assessments be done according to property value. Everything being done and to be done is by state statute and we consult with the township attorney regarding statute matters.

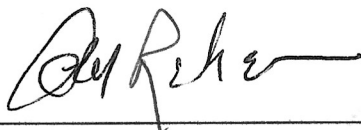
The work done on Timber Drive at the end of 2023 was for snow removal as the contractors had no where to push the snow and in past winters the road narrowed substantially. The earth moving is completed, and what needs to be finished in the spring is removing the downed trees, finish the grading and put down the seed in the erosion mat. The County was asked to come out and inspect since the project was so close to the lake and they determined the width.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson Adopt a resolution to begin the process for a capital improvement project and capital improvement plan.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson Adopt a resolution to establish a policy for assessments and financing for the various road projects.

Any future meetings regarding road planning will be posted in the Pine Cone Press-Citizen and at the Town Hall Kiosk.

M/S/P Peterson/Reher meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.



Chair, Gordy Reher



Clerk, Cathy Dietrich

