

OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
JULY 13, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A special meeting of the Oakfield Township Board of Trustees held July 13, 2010 at 10300 14 Mile Road, Rockford, MI., was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present were:** Greg Dean, Larry Parker, Linda Matz, Darcia Kelley, Brad Kelley, and Ken Rittersdorf, (Roger Mason arrived at 7:10 pm)

**Absent:** None

**Public Signed in:**

Jacqueline McIntyre, Allan L. and Joyce Kibless, Randy Homrich, Sue Englesman, Marie & Ed Bernatowicz, Dory & Lucy Chisholm, Donald Johnson, Edward Barnatowicz, Andy Harter, Brian Belliel, Sue Konyndyk, Arnie Ruier, Mike & Shelly Baas, Norman Nicholson, Dan Lyndrup, Bert & Beverly Hopp, Neil Mills, Louise Johnson, Tracy Chesolins.

**Written Comments:** Brian & Phillis Moser are for the improvements, Sue and Randy Englesman are for the improvements. Arnie Ruiter concerned about speed.

**Kent County Road Commission:** Jon Rice, Dave Groenleer

**Reason for the Hearing:**

Improving the Natural Beauty Road Sandy Bottom between Wabasis and Heintzelman.

**Dean:** explained the basic project as 6" to 8" limestone overlay, tree cutting, cutting limbs up to 14' and widening the road in some places to 20', then turned the meeting over to Rice for further explanation.

**Rice:** For the construction and upgrade of a Natural Beauty Road there must be a Public Hearing. Kent County is here to confirm that the Public Hearing took place. There are 43 miles of Natural Beauty Roads in Kent County. There will be spot tree removal; there will be between 15 to 20 trees removed. The road will be widened in certain locations in the curves to make it possible for two cars to pass safely. Widen the road to 18' to 20'; we will maintain 18' where possible. Also routine tree work; remove dead trees, and to clear the tree limbs 13' to 14' high.

**Dean:** Explained the process. There were no plans done because it is only Minor Construction. People that have questions will fill out the question forms from the back of the room. Everyone will get a chance; we need to keep some order so we can get a good set of minutes.

**Marie Bernatowicz:** Is there a grass cutting Ordinance? Dean: no

**Jackie McIntyre:** Is this just lake frontage property or Road Problems? Dean: It is for property from Wabasis to Heintzelman.

**Joyce Kebless:** The road graders tore up a lot of Prairie Buttercup grown along the side of the road. They gouged a large area and put boulders onto the road.

**Sue Knoyndyk:** Issues with; tree arbor above the road, widening of the road, potential erosion problems, Thinks the road itself controls the speed due to its curves, hills and trees, does not want the road flattened. Does not want to lose 5-6 trees in her yard. **Rice:** The removal of the trees is important for safety and the structure of the entire road.

**Donald Johnson:** Upset about no plans being available to read. Has 4 grandchildren that have to cross the road to use the lake; Limestone will hurt their feet, its hard to walk on.

**Brian Belliel:** This is not minor construction, the trees help with dust control. We have the right to know what trees are coming out. **Dean:** we will have the trees marked, if you have a problem with them let me know. Dean explained how the dust layer works, and the road will not be paved.

**Lucy Chisholm:** There is no excuse for not having concept drawings. The speed demons on the road are the bus drivers. The road forces people to down. No way should the project be approved without plans. **Dean:** has no problem with Kent County doing the work. **Chisholm:** We own a berry farm; we are concerned with safety and the timing of the project.

**Allan Kibless:** It's like a drag strip by his house. The Graders took out a 4' to 5' strip by his house. There are a couple of trees 6" from the gravel, has had a few people come to their house after accidents with the trees, the speed should be 25 mph, there are not many Prairie Buttercup by the road anymore. Would like a harder road surface.

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**Dan Lyndrup:** Doesn't think because the road will "hurt your feet" is a reason not to do the project. Wants to see plans for the project.

**Sue Konyndyk:** Have the problems been identified? Maybe the road could be done in two sections? Complete a portion of the road to see its benefits and then think about the rest. As residents of a Natural Beauty Road it is our responsibility to know what is going on before it happens.

**Dean:** Explained how road beds work and that it takes one year for a Limestone overlay to pack.

**Lucy Chisholm:** would it be possible to take aerial views and mark the trees. **Dean:** we won't go through that expense. **Chisholm:** We don't want to lose any large trees. **Rice:** The Berry farm won't lose any trees; they would come off the lake side. **Chisholm:** What is the timeline?

**Rice:** Not during Berry season.

**Donald Johnson:** Concerned with the road bed landing in the lake.

**Lucy Chisholm:** The road limits the speed; Safety is an issue.

**Arnie Ruier:** The road needs to be improved but we need to be sensitive to the issues of others.

**Shelley Baas:** The issue is with the school busses and trash trucks; something needs to be done.

**Lucy Chisholm:** The curve isn't being straightened out; it's still going to be there. The overlay won't solve the curve.

**Donald Johnson:** If this doesn't happen at this time, will any of it happen? **Dean:** We will have the trees marked and decide later.

**Joyce Kebless:** Lots of potholes.

**Dan Lyndrup:** Will the question be called tonight?

**Dean:** Asked for a show of hands, 12 in favor 9, opposed. We will mark the trees and meet again.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Linda L. Matz  
Oakfield Township Clerk