

OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 10, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting of the Oakfield Township Board of Trustees held August 10 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 7:15 pm

Absent: None

Public Signed in:

Sue & Randy Engelsman, Shirley Steel, Joe Steel, Jeff & Laura Grant, Brian Belliel, Marie & Edin Bernatowicz, Sue & Don Johnson, Edward Barnatowicz, Patricia Neal Ber, JoshDeewaarf, Luch Chisholm, Brian & Phyllis Mosher, Sarah Luscher, Richard Nelson.

Other Comments: Arnie Ruiter couldn't make the meeting he called the 9th and spoke with the Clerk asking he be counted as being for the improvements.

Kent County Road Commission: Jon Rice

Reason for the Hearing:

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

Dean: Brought the meeting to order at 7pm, he reminded everyone this was a continuation from last month's meeting. He explained the there are 20 trees marked to come down he also stated only trees over 8" in diameter were marked. Anything less than 8" would come out as necessary along with the dead trees.

J. Grant: Safety is his concern. The road already has problems with snow plowing, he's been told that limestone doesn't pack well, unless it has a good base. He's concerned that the plows will wreck the road in the winter.

Rice: Stated the goal is to put light pressure on the road so it doesn't get torn up.

Dean: The road will pack down in a year.

D. Johnson: The State guidelines for Natural Beauty Roads state the roads should be marked at 35mph, 25mph for dirt or gravel.

Rice: That's a suggested speed not required. Kent County decided we don't mark any gravel roads in Kent County; we made the decision not to mark Natural Beauty Roads.

D. Johnson: Two trees are marked on my property most of the road is at 16' to 18'. At the one tree on the lake side it's at 19'. The trees slow down traffic. Removing these trees will cause the plow trucks to dump gravel onto my grass and into the lake.

Rice: We marked the trees to come out for uniformity.

S. Johnson: Do you remove the stumps?

Rice: We grind them out.

S. Johnson: When the stumps are ground out will it destroy the trees next to them?

Rice: We can chip it to ground level as to not destroy roots of surrounding trees.

S. Johnson: What about drainage?

Rice: This is not a drainage issue, ditches will not be dug.

Chisholm: Will limestone be more resistant to pot holes?

Rice: Yes, it's more resistant to pot holes.

Matz: Commented her road was done two years ago, the limestone is solid, not like gravel.

Chisholm: Speed is an issue; the trees that will be taken down are mostly past their prime a lot of dead limbs need to be removed. The residents need to replant. Can the County replant some screening for dust protection?

Rice: The County can't.

Dean: The Township can't.

S. Engelsman: Speed is the issue everyone agreed last time it was the school buses, waste haulers and delivery trucks going through. Having the speed posted will not help; there is no enforcement. Posting is a mute point; we need to call the waste haulers and school busses.

Chisholm: Mailbox got hit 5 times in 6 months by busses.

S. Johnson: We should have a "Slow Children" sign.

S Luscher: I'm a friend of one of the bus drivers I'll ask her to slow down.

P. Moser: The speed limit is not realistic.

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S. Luscher: The north side of Sandy Bottom by Heintzelman is the worst spot for dust; my son needs his inhaler only this time of year.

Dean: We have three dust layers a year; Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Chisholm: What is the timing?

Dean: We like to have the road projects done by Memorial Day. The tree cutting would take place the tail end of winter.

S. Johnson: Who gets the fire wood?

Rice: It goes to the property owner.

Dean: Asked for a showing of hands: In favor of the work being done seventeen: opposed two.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Linda L. Matz
Oakfield Township Clerk