

MINUTES

Pentwater Township Board

Special Meeting of March 29, 2017

Members Present: Smith, Johnson, Ruggles, Flynn and Siska.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David W. Bluhm, P.E., Fleis & VandenBrink; and, Mark Timmer, Managing Director, Oceana County Road Commission. In addition, 12 other persons were in the audience.

Call to Order: Supervisor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Action: Meeting Agenda – The agenda was amended to include a review of Transfer Station Fee Schedule. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

Old Business: Mr. Smith reported that the Transfer Station Attendant reviewed the Transfer Station Fee Schedule and recommended an increase from \$1.60 to \$5.00 per each passenger tire. Further he recommended that no other tires (truck, tractor, forklift) be accepted at the site.

Moved by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Siska to amend the Transfer Station Fee Schedule as recommended. Voice vote. Motion carried.

New Business – Review and discussion of Design Alternatives and Cost Estimates for the Longbridge Road Non-Motorized Pathway.

Mr. Bluhm began the presentation by indicating that these types of projects are very expensive and funding is key. AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards that address width/slope/distance, etc. must be followed. Such standards add to the cost but also increase the safety of such trails.

Mr. Flynn explained that the Township Board was engaged in this idea because residents have expressed concern with safety along Pentwater Lake while on bicycles and on foot. Will the study and cost be feasible? Fleis & VandenBrink was retained to prepare preliminary plans/details/cost estimates for a possible future grant application by the township and/or county.

As Longbridge Road is a County-owned road, grants must be applied for by the Oceana County Road Commission.

Mr. Bluhm said that collaboration is necessary and showing connectivity (to the Hart/Montague trail) is key. The non-motorized pathway would be a two-way shared path with a 5' minimum from the road shoulder to the path which would be a minimum of 10'. A 12' path is preferred.

Mr. Bluhm explained the two favored options at a cost of \$3.3 million or nearly \$5 million. The project would require that property easements (both temporary and permanent) would be needed. The typical match for a MDNRTF grant and/or MDOT TAP grant would be 20 – 25 percent.

Public Comments – 7:40 p.m.

- Mr. Terry Schrauben of Longbridge Road asked about property owners of vacant land that currently do not have a driveway. Mr. Bluhm said that there would be no restrictions with respect to the trail. Mr. Timmer added that a driveway permit from the Road Commission would be required as is current practice.
- Mr. Jeff Hodges of Hancock Street asked if alternatives were being considered. Perhaps the non-motorized path could go to Chester Street and boats could be used to cross Pentwater Lake to town.
- Mr. Mike Peters of Longbridge Road expressed concern about the path going to Monroe Road as traveling on Monroe Road to Pentwater on a bicycle is extremely dangerous. He also asked about the areas that drop off. Mr. Bluhm said that the drop-off areas would either be filled or retaining walls would be constructed.
- Ms. Gay Liebertz of Longbridge Road expressed concern about the 17' needed for the pathway. Her yard is 25'. This means the trail will only be 8' from her window. Mr. Bluhm stated that special consideration must be given in these specific circumstances.
- Ms. Cindy Williams of Longbridge Road expressed concern as she also lives on the "hard 90" (90 degree turn). The 17' requirement would bring the path into her living room.
- Ms. Claudia Ressel-Hodan of Sands Street reminded the audience that, once all the issues are ironed out, trails increase property values.
- Mr. Schrauben referred to the cost of trails. If AASHTO standards were not followed, construction cost would be less.
- Mr. Peters said that if the trail is not maintained in the winter, it would invite snowmobilers to utilize the path. They are terribly hard on the asphalt.

Mr. Smith reminded the group that it is a non-motorized path; however, enforcement will be an issue.

Mr. Timmer said that he would recommend the non-motorized path to the Oceana County Road Commission if that is the will of the Township Board.

Adjournment – Moved by Mr. Ruggles and seconded by Ms. Siska to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Johnson, Clerk

Date