

## PENTWATER TOWNSHIP ROAD COMMITTEE

327 S. Hancock Street, PO Box 512, Pentwater MI 49449

### Minutes of Meeting of June 16, 2020

- I. Chairman Hooyman called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. via Zoom
- II. Members Present: Nancy Arvai, Tim Cole, Pat Hooyman, Tom Hicks, Dean Holub  
  
Members Absent: None  
  
Others Present: None
- III. **Meeting Agenda:** A motion was made by Member Holub and duly seconded by Member Arvai to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Voice vote: Aye: All Nay: None
- IV. **Minutes of Meeting of December 13, 2019:** A motion was made by Member Hicks and duly seconded by Member Cole to approve the meeting minutes of December 13, 2019. Voice vote: Aye: All Nay: None
- V. **Status Report: Township Road Improvements for 2020:**  
Member Holub reminded members that the Township Board had previously approved three of the four road projects that the Committee had submitted last year for improvement in 2020. Member Holub said that the three projects were submitted to the Oceana County Road Commission in early April after Board approval and subsequently submitted to the OCRC. He said that the Wayne Road project had recently been completed, while the Lansing Road and Lake Breeze Drive projects would likely be initiated later this summer or fall as the Road Commission has a number of road projects under contract from several townships in the County.  
  
In answer to a question regarding the potential of the Township withdrawing funding for the other two projects, Member Holub stated that the road fund contained in the Township's 2020 budget contained sufficient funding for both of the Wayne and Lansing Road projects. He said that the Lake Breeze Drive project would likely be funded via the Township's fund balance account.
- VI. **Old Business: None**

## VII. **New Business:**

### **a. Review & Discussion: Long-Term Funding Alternatives for Township Road Improvements**

Chairman Hooyman said that the primary objective of the meeting was to discuss options/alternatives for long-term funding of road improvements for the Township and referred members to a communication and several documents related to long-term funding alternatives in their packets. He stated that a number of townships in the County currently collect special millages for road maintenance and improvements.

Members then reviewed three potential long-term statutory funding mechanisms, including Extra Voted Millage under Section 41.3; Township Board levy up to 3 mills under Section 247.670; and via Special Assessment under Section 41.721 (Public Improvements Act 188 of 1954).

Members quickly ruled out the option of special assessment due to its limited use, versus being a township-wide approach to funding. Consequently, members limited discussion to two of the three potential funding alternatives: a voter approved millage and a millage levy by the Township Board which does not require voter approval. In answer to a question, the levy of one mil under either option would generate approximately \$220,000 in Pentwater Township.

The Committee discussed the voter approved millage option. Members were informed that the Township Board and Village Council recently approved placing a millage request from the Fire Department for a new ladder truck to be placed on the November ballot. Members felt that placing a second **new** millage request for road improvements on the ballot could jeopardize one or both proposals from being approved.

After more discussion, members felt that the millage levy by the Township Board itself then, was the most feasible and expedient option to secure a long-term funding mechanism for road maintenance and improvements. Members reviewed Section 247.670 of Public Act 51 of 1951 which states "a board of any township may also levy a property tax of not to exceed 3 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of the township in any year for the maintenance or improvement of county roads within the township . . ." There is no requirement for voter approval and/or the need for a public hearing on the proposal.

Following further discussion by the members, **a motion was made by Member Cole and duly seconded by Member Arvai to recommend that the Pentwater Township Board of Trustees levy a minimum of**

**one-half (1/2) mil to a maximum of one (1) mil for road maintenance and improvements in the Township annually for a period of five (5) years (2020-2024) under Section 247.670 of P. A. 51 of 1951 and further, that the Board conduct a public hearing on the proposed levy. Voice vote: Aye: All Nay: None**

VIII. **Citizen Comments: None**

IX. **Other Items from Members:**

Member Hicks inquired if the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting would be necessary. It was suggested that members' reserve the meeting date and time, while it was likely that the meeting would be cancelled unless the Township Board referred the funding issue back to the Committee for further review.

X. **Announcements: None**

XI. **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Member Arvai and duly seconded by Member Cole to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m. Voice Vote: Aye All Nay: None

UNAPPROVED