

Deerwood Township
Regular Meeting
December 11, 2017

Board of Supervisors:

James Walth - Chair
Josh Thompson - Vice Chair
David Gray - Supervisor

Carol Pundt- Clerk
Amy Donovan - Treasurer
Steve Reilly - Road Overseer

Present: James Walth, Josh Thompson, David Gray, Carol Pundt, Amy Donovan, Steve Reilly
Absent: None

James Walth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by David Gray and seconded by Josh Thompson to approve the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to approve the November 13, 2017, Monthly Board meeting minutes. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit for the month ending November 30, 2017. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of Claims: A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to approve the claims for the month of December totaling \$31,140.08. All voted in favor of the motion.

Roads:

Nelson Road Project Update: Steve Reilly told the Board the culvert lining project was completed the week of Thanksgiving. Justin Schulz, from WSN, told the Board the culvert lining design has a life time of 100 years. The original culvert was not plugged. It was operating as intended. The utilities contractors have buried the lines on the Auchter property. The road project is in winter suspension. In the spring of 2018 the final pavement will be placed on the road.

Placid Drive: Justin Schulz, from WSN, told the Board the wetland permits have been submitted. He is waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers to do their review and response of the project. Temporary construction easements still need to be completed. Justin will talk to Jerry Bonsack regarding the start of the easement process. The Board was given a map of the roadway listing the affected properties. The Township will need to get temporary construction easement approval if the construction work extends past the 33 foot prescriptive easement. At this time the Township Board did not make a decision on re-describing the roadway right of way per the center line of the road. It was suggested that Justin talk to Jerry to see how the landowners would feel about doing this.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to have Widseth, Smith, Nolting put together descriptions and sketches for each easement to be presented to the individual landowners along the roadway. All voted in favor of the motion.

Thompson Point Road/Nolan Spenser: Nolan Spenser presented a picture of the Thompson Point Road surface which he felt needs to be dug out and replaced. The area is a 240 foot section of roadway beginning from highway 6. A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to have Steve Reilly get an estimate on the cost of what would be needed to repair or replace that part of the road surface this coming spring. All voted in favor of the motion.

County Road 101 Update: Steve Reilly talked to Patrick Radtke, of the City of Deerwood. It was discussed that the City of Deerwood would maintain Forest Lane to be managed by the Deerwood Public Work's Department for plowing and sanding for the winter season of 2018 – 2019 and future years. Deerwood Township would maintain Deerwood Lane.

The Deerwood Township Board is agreeable to this idea, but, would like a formal contract between the two government entities. Mike Aulie, the mayor of Deerwood, sent the Township a letter of agreement. Carol Pundt will contact the City of Deerwood to start the contract process.

Road Overseer's Report/Steve Reilly: Nothing to report outside of general road maintenance.

Nelson Drive Lake Access Issue: This is a summary of approximately an hour long discussion. Where the Township heard concerns from those in attendance. Each Board member expressed their concerns and weighed a variety of factors (which Virginia Knudson, the Township attorney, presented at the November Board meeting) within the framework to which the Township believes is in the best interest of the Township. Those factors have to do with the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Board also used its discretion by weighing the social, political and economic impacts regarding this issue.

Josh Thompson is still troubled regarding the issue of public safety, which is the platform he ran on to be elected to the Board. He has a tough time of dismissing his main concern regarding the blockage of the road when launching and taking boats out of Shirt Lake. Josh told the Board he would like to see some ideas, from the Shirt Lake Association, regarding an alternate boat launching area or somehow finding an approach which would be more angled off the roadway so as not to block the road. Josh Thompson told the Board the area used for launching and removing boats from Shirt Lake is not a viable option in his opinion.

Steve Reilly and Josh Thompson inspected the area last week and told the Board it looks like there has been deterioration of the rip rap in the location of the lake access from launching and removing boats from the lake. The damage may be from compaction of the soil or rocks being thrown into the lake.

David Gray felt as long as the Township weighted all the factors Virginia Knudson referred to in her opinion to the Board the liability issue for the Township should be of less concern. The Shirt Lake Association told the Board they would be willing to donate \$1,000 to the Township for maintenance of the area used for launching or taking out boats. He felt the Township cannot be 100% certain of any safety issue concerns regarding roads in Deerwood Township. But, in the past when the roadway was narrower there has not been one incident regarding an accident, in the area at issue, reported to the Board. David Gray felt the percent of risk of a meaningful obstruction of the road is very low. The use of the access off Nelson Drive has been an established practice for many years.

The Board discussed the questions, "Is denying the access warranted based on safety issues"? Also, "Is the level of safety risk sufficient to change the historical use"?

James Walth said he understands the concerns for safety, but, in 40 years approximately 2 million cars have been driven on Nelson Drive. There has not been one incident reported to the Board. He said it is incumbent upon all of us who drive to be aware of safety concerns when driving.

A motion was made by James Walth and seconded by David Gray to take no action at this time. James Walth and David Gray voted in favor of the motion. Josh Thompson voted against the motion. The motion passed. Carol Pundt will find out how the Township needs to handle donations according to Township Statute.

Variance Request: None

Town Hall Plant Update: Nothing to report.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to set the date and time for the reorganization meeting for January 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to set the date and time for the audit/budget meeting for February 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm. All voted in favor of the motion

Other Business to Come Before the Board: Nothing was discussed.

A motion was made by David Gray and seconded by Josh Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Supervisor: _____

Dated: _____

Supervisor: _____

Supervisor: _____

Clerk: _____