

17034 Town Hall Highway
May 15, 2015

Bearinger Township Special Board Meeting
Millersburg, Michigan

The purpose of this special meeting is to determine a road repair decision as budgeted in the 2015-2016 Bearinger Township Budget. For consideration: Ocqueoc Lake Road north of Beach Hwy.

Supervisor John Malaski called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Present for the meeting were board members, Supervisor John Malaki, Clerk Beverly Rossetto, Treasurer Keitha Malaski and Trustees Kay Dowker and Archie Patterson. Others in attendance were Jim McKindles, Nancy Schutes, Pat Augustine, Bill Hiscock, Karen Silvers, Gale Phelps, Irene Seelye, Doug Thomsen, William Davis, Douglas Wood, Barb Knight, Chris Chagnon Ed Guzman, Irv Dedow, Duane Walker and Tom and Emilie Stawiarski.

Archie Patterson clarified that the resigning treasurer can vote on any board issues until May 31, 2015.

Beverly Rossetto commented that our local secondary roads have been neglected for over twenty years and that it now necessary that each year we budget for repairs on these roads. There are seventeen (17) homes on the proposed road project, the base of the road has been destroyed and it needs more than simple blading. We must maintain our roads and properties to keep it a desirable place to live.

Kay Dowker questioned how can we do one road without doing for all the other tax payers roads, how can we choose what roads are to be worked on.

Keitha Malaski feels we should keep a good relationship with the Road Commission. Our tax dollars pay for snow plowing and brining on secondary roads, but not all tax payers benefit from the snow plowing and brining but their tax dollars are used.

John Malaski talked about driving on Ocqueoc Lake Road and stated that the base of the road is gone. To complete this project it will cost the township \$7,500.00, the supervisor thinks that the tax payers should get back some of their tax money in a tangible way. He has also spoken to the Road Commissioner about primary road repairs on Town Hall Highway and County Road 489.

Beverly Rossetto made a motion to approve the bid of \$7,500.00 for the Ocqueoc Lake Road project which includes three inches (3") of gravel, twenty feet (20') wide for 6/10 of a mile, the Road commission is to haul the gravel, place it down, grade, roll and brine the area, Keitha Malaski seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Kay Dowker – no, Keitha Malaski – yes, Beverly Rossetto – yes, Archie Patterson – no and John Malaski – yes. Three yes votes, two no votes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Barb Knight feels that the state and county should be responsible for maintaining the road, she thinks that the people who live on the dirt roads should take care of their roads.

Pat Augustine questioned if the resigning treasurer should be allowed to vote on this issue.

Irene Seelye said that everyone pays for the road and they are a necessity in the township. Dirt roads are not the only problem, the whole national road infrastructure is in need of repair. Irene asked for a breakdown of the Road Commission bid, Supervisor Malaski explained that we pay for the gravel and the Road commission does all the hauling and labor for the project.

Clerk Rossetto questioned if the tax payers on Ocqueoc Lake Road want their road repaired. Karen Silver stated that they did want the road repaired but thinks the county should pay for it and maintain it.

Supervisor Malaski commented that Beach Highway and Balch Road are in great need of repair and these are roads that the county does not have enough money for this year.

Gale Phelps agrees with Barb Knight, we need to hold the state and county responsible to keep our roads in repair.

Chris Chagon stated that if the sub-structure of the road is broken down, will this project just be a band-aid fix.

Irene Seelye has spoken to the Road Commissioner about their manpower being down from 41 to 21 employees and the budget cuts. The Commissioner stated that because of weather they did not have time last fall to maintain our roads.

Nancy Shutes said she has set in on every township meeting and heard the talk about Bluffs Highway and Pine Tree Trail, these are private roads that belong to the people.

Jim McKindles commented that the people don't know or understand anything about property or gasoline tax.

Ed Guzman questioned why we called this special meeting at this time of day.

Being no further public comments, Beverly Rossetto made a motion to adjourn, Kay Dowker seconded the motion. Five yes votes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by,

Beverly Rossetto

Beverly Rossetto, Township Clerk