

Clitherall Township
Informational Meeting
South Clitherall Lake Road
March 12, 2009; 6:00 – 7:30
Eagle Lake Lutheran Church
Minutes

The Clitherall town board met on March 12, 2009 for an informational meeting regarding South Clitherall Lake Road. Board members in attendance were Don Davenport, Dallas Grewe, Lyman Trutna, Polly Berg and Jan Eitzen.

Don Davenport called the meeting to order at 6:22.

Davenport explained some background information. In the 1990s the road was recorded at the court house based on aerial photographs. Townships have more recently been sued because aerial photography isn't accurate enough for recording. Clitherall Township has been surveying their roads for accuracy. There have been some requests in the past to blacktop this road.

Three times Clitherall Township has applied for grant money from the state for road improvements. This year the township checked into federal stimulus money, but it wasn't going to the townships, only state road. The townships can apply for earmark money for 2010. The board has applied for this funding.

If funding were to be approved the project needs to be "shovel ready." Three corners on this road would need to be moved to be shovel ready.

The first phase is to get the legal description cleared up to be properly recorded. Davenport described some problems with the existing description.

A resident asked if the board planned to move the roads to match the description or change the description to match the road. Davenport explained that around slews, etc, they want to change the description to match the road. He further explained that they wanted to change the radius of three curves to make them adequate for a blacktopped road. The curves would not be as sharp.

A resident spoke that she wasn't concerned about the road changes, but she was concerned about where the funding was going to come from for making the changes to the road.

Davenport explained that they would work to fix the recordings at the courthouse first. The resident asked about how long the township has to comply with building the roads to match the legal description. Davenport responded that they have quite a bit of time.

Davenport also explained that the 30 mph limit would be posted in the residential areas.

Davenport read an email from a resident to the attendees.

Another resident spoke against the paving of the road. He stated that if the board pursued paving South Clitherall Lake road he would block the first half mile. He would agree to the paving if the board would agree to pave his driveway. He also stated that he wants to present a petition to Senator Klobuchar of residents opposed to the paving.

Another resident referred to the letter sent to Senator Klobuchar and questioned the numbers used in the petition. Davenport responded that an appraiser was used to determine the percentage increase used to calculate the "benefit" to the affected lots. Davenport responded that the lake shore property would benefit the most from the road being paved and would thus pay a higher percentage. He gave more details about the calculations.

Another resident raised concerns about more traffic on the paved road. He personally would be affected by the road move as his lot would be split into three rather than two.

Another resident presented the point that the initial cost of paving the road may also be offset by the long term savings in road maintenance. He also suggested that maybe the road should be moved up to a county road status and turned over to the county for maintenance.

The board distributed drawings of a proposed new curve.

A resident asked if Nidros township would be paying part of the road. Davenport responded that they would. Davenport also stated this is the fourth year that the board has applied for grant funding.

Some residents complained about the condition of the road in the spring. A resident asked if the road was built to handle the weight of some of the trucks that are traveling the road. Christiansen spoke that he understood the statute allowed trucks to go in empty and come out full.

Davenport explained to the attendees that residents have asked them to do something about the road and that is why they are having this informational meeting.

Residents talked again about turning the cut across from Hwy 5 to Hwy 78 into a county road.

A resident asked if the township would lose something by turning the road over to the county. Davenport explained that the township would lose some gas tax funds for the portion that was turned to county road.

Davenport stated the board would check into turning the road over. They will also pursue rebuilding the road at some rate per year, for instance 1 mile a year. The curves would also be corrected at that time.

A resident asked about paving a specific part of the road. The board responded that they have been asked by residents to pave that road.

Davenport adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Another resident spoke during the Crane Lake Drive Meeting that his preference would be to pave the road. He feels the road will get more expensive to maintain and will be more expensive later on to pave. He wanted to be on record with his statement.