

Public Hearing Meeting
January 17, 2018

Minutes Approved February 21, 2018

The Public Hearing meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 6:34 pm, at the Clearwater Township Community Center by Supervisor Larry Niederstadt, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of board members: Barb Crambell-present; Larry Niederstadt-present; Dwight Seaman-present; Kathy Eldridge-present. Also present, Marletta Day, as recording secretary and 19 guests.

Discuss Glade Valley Road Bridge (Iron Bridge) over the Rapid River.

Public Comment:

Grace Beland informed the board that the bridge is being snow plowed, and depending on type of truck, it exceeds the weight limit. Asked the board to consider shutting the bridge down to traffic due to safety.

Mike Stevens and wife Kathy, purchased property couple of years ago. It is a single family home, on 500 acres, 21 parcels. When purchased, in agreement, it was agreed to upgrade the bridge to a weight of 10 ton. There is no end date to that, but still intend to update it. The bridge is the only access to property. Kellogg Road is impassable. Understands that the Township and County don't have the money to upgrade it and maintain it.

Beland stated that it is a historical bridge, and we need to keep the integrity and preserve the bridge, but not to deny access to property.

Stevens stated they definitely plan on upgrading it in the next 2 years, bringing it up to 10 ton, in the cost of \$25,000, but we would not own the bridge. What is more important: maintain access to the river, or preserve the bridge? The response from the board was both, they go hand in hand.

Niederstadt informed this bridge has to be inspected twice a year with MDOT. The last time, the inspector was underneath when a tandem truck drove over it. It was the inspector's recommendation the bridge is only getting worse, and is at its lowest weight of 3 tons. Eldridge stated it is a safety issue.

Dale Gaylord gave historical information on the bridge. Approximately built in the in late 1800's, it is one of the first steel bridges ever made, and still at its original site.

Niederstadt stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss options; one being to block off both ends of the bridge and strictly make it a walking/fishing bridge.

Legal easement was questioned and was answered. Once easement was given, you cannot take it away. The bridge is the only easement for the property.

Stevens stated they are good stewards, good neighbors, and want to stick to the contract; they don't want to bring the bridge up to 10 ton, and then have no way to their property. Suggested working up a proposal to the situation. Board agreed to look at it.

Adjourned:

Motion by Niederstadt to adjourn meeting, seconded by Crambell. All in favor. Motion passed, ending meeting at 7:11 pm.

Respectively submitted by
Marletta Day, Recording Secretary