

The Clearwater Township Board held a special meeting on January 29, 2015 at the Clearwater Township Hall for the purpose of taking action on two matters as follows:

- 1. Action on the resolution involving the Glade Valley Road and Bridge**
- 2. Decision on the road to receive funding from the Road Millage fund in 2015**

Supervisor Niederstadt called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of board members: Crambell-present; Beland-present; Seaman-present; Niederstadt-present; Vance-absent. Minutes were recorded by Deputy Clerk, Gray in the absence of Clerk Vance. Also present was township attorney Peter Wendling, and attorney David Caldon who was representing the prospective buyers of the Fahl property. John Rogers from the Kalkaska County Road Commission was also present as well as approximately 40 other guests.

**Public Comment:** Niederstadt requested that each person wishing to comment keep their presentation to three minutes. He is following Robert's Rules for the meeting.

Various township residents spoke about the Glade Valley road and bridge. They included Dale Gaylord, Jerry McDiarmid, Tracey Fahl, Kevin Arietta, Lance Gates, Mona Saunders, Jeff West and Larry Barber.

These residents expressed their concern about the bridge retaining its historical integrity. Several felt the township is under no obligation to do anything with the bridge and that the resolution presented at the meeting was too vague. Gaylord would like to see the bridge become a tourist attraction. Fahl currently lives on the property and stated that nothing had been done in the past 14 years to upgrade the bridge. She also is concerned with the historical value of the bridge for future generations and feels now is the time to make something happen with respect to improvements.

Niederstadt responded to concerns about the resolution. He stated the township is giving up no legal rights to the road which remain exactly the same. It is only allowing new owners access to the Fahl property, and allowing them to put four new beams into the bridge.

Various residents also spoke about the condition of several township roads. They included James Lindner, Jim Stanton, Tom Backers, Paula Larson, Jim Freeman, Kim Sternhagen, Reatha Cochran, John Boucher, and Don Styers.

Several people who live on Baggs Rd. and Hoiles Dr. asked that these roads be included in the township's list of roads to be considered for funding from the road millage, and spoke to the high density of residents on these roads. There are two boat landings which are accessed from Baggs Rd., and used year around by fisherman, snowmobilers, hunters, etc. On a recent weekend there were over 60 vehicles at the landing and on the road both Saturday and Sunday. Several feel that roads with public accesses should get more funding for the extra traffic. Many felt that the township survey that was done in 2007

was not a good way to determine which roads should be repaired, and that a better system needs to be found.

Tom Backers, a planning commission member, stated he feels since Morrison Rd. has been started, it should be finished. Because the drainage problem needs to be fixed first on Aarwood Trl., he would not put any money into that road at this time.

Aarwood Trail residents who spoke expressed their concerns about Morrison Rd. receiving two years of millage funding and would like the board to reconsider and use funds this year for Aarwood Trl. They feel the survey from 2007 placed Aarwood Trl. in line to receive funds before Morrison Rd. Cochran has counted the number of homes using Morrison, and Aarwood Trl. has more homes than Morrison and all their feeder roads. A special assessment was suggested by several individuals for the roads. It was also suggested that traffic counters be used in the future to determine the priority of the roads to be fixed.

A short break was taken at 8:17 p.m. Meeting resumed in approximately 10 minutes.

Attorney Wendling spoke and answered questions in regards to the resolution. He reminded everyone that if the township gives up jurisdiction over the bridge, it would revert to the DNR if they wanted to claim it. The only requirement of the township right now is that they keep the road reasonably passable. They do not have to upgrade the bridge past the 3 ton limit. Beland had several items that she felt needed to be changed in the resolution. She addressed these separately on various pages of the resolution.

Attorney Caldon also spoke and explained his client's desire to improve the bridge and make it accessible for propane trucks and emergency vehicles. He addressed Beland's concerns on various aspects of the resolution and stated he was more than willing to change any of the language to satisfy the township. He noted that the anticipated date for closing on the land sale was mid February. He would like to make all changes necessary and have approval of this resolution as soon as possible.

After further discussion the board agreed they were not ready to make a decision to accept the resolution. It was moved by Beland, seconded by Niederstadt to form a committee to investigate the Steven's proposal for putting money into the Glade Valley road and bridge. Motion approved.

The committee will consist of Grace Beland, Dale Gaylord, Larry Niederstadt, Tracey Fahl and Jeff West. They will meet on Thursday Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Clearwater Township Hall. Changes will be relayed to the Steven's attorney for correction of the resolution.

Moved by Beland, seconded by Niederstadt to have a special meeting on February 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the Clearwater Township Community Center to finalize a potential agreement on Glade Valley Road and Iron Bridge. Motion approved.

The next agenda item was a decision on which road should receive millage funding for 2015. Niederstadt addressed the questions regarding the road survey from 2007 and stated that four roads were under consideration. He said that he had never stated the priority of the roads to be done.

Since the board had moved in February, 2014 to spend the millage money of 2014 and 2015 on Morrison Rd., the board agreed to maintain that motion as follows: Seaman-respect the decision from the board last year; Niederstadt-stand by the decision made last year; Crambell-also agreed to stand by last years decision, but would like to see input into what roads need the most attention, and how to address that; Beland also agreed with the decision made last year. Therefore, the millage money in 2015 will be used to complete Morrison Rd.

John Rogers from the Road Commission spoke on several issues concerning the spending of the millage money from the county. He felt our board was doing the best they could with their limited resources.

Moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Gray,  
Recording Secretary