

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
IRA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 2, 2021**

The Ira Township Board of Trustees met in the board room of the Ira Township Hall on June 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: James Endres, Jr., Thomas Lauer, Tom Eder, James Jacob and Jean Corbat

Absent: None

Also present: Roxanne Reeder, Township Assessor, Christopher Hiltunen, DPW Supervisor and Christine Anderson, Township Attorney

Public Hearing called to order by J. Endres Jr. at 7:03 p.m.

**LONG ISLAND COURT PAVING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT PROJECT
PUBLIC HEARING #1**

Public present: The following residents signed in at the meeting: William Dee, Matthew Mueller, Bill Bates, Rob Bernardi, Keith Schedlbauer, Walter Walchak, Jim Fairchild, Mike and Vicky Gordon, John Thielk, Virginia Warner, Patty Voss, Debbra Stephenson, Butch Stephenson, Katherine Alward, Gerald Fortner, Ron Wood and Tom Rickel. Several other people were also in attendance but did not sign in.

The following residents offered comments or objections at the meeting: John Bieda, Thomas Deriemaecker, Bill Bates, Kurt Liederman, Nancy Rickel, Bob Goldenbogen, Rob Bernardi, John Thielk, Walter Walchak, Matt Mueller, Tom Rickel, Joann Augustine, Norm Augustine.

The purpose of this public hearing is to hear any comments or objections to the petition, the installation of the paving improvements and the creation of a special assessment district therefor. Supervisor Endres summarized the petition and project. He also explained that the St. Clair County Road Commission is handling the engineering part of the project and the Township is handling the special assessment district only. Supervisor Endres also explained that the Township has approved the Long Island Court Hydrant, House Lead and Stop Box Replacement Project which will be completed before the paving project begins.

Comments/questions from the public (all responses by Supervisor Endres unless otherwise noted):

Several concerns were voiced about the proposed height of the concrete and its effect on the properties.

Response: Road Commission prepared the engineering specs for the project and individual homeowners will be responsible for their property on the lake side of the road.

Can the project include paving on the first part of Long Island Court?

Response: The paved section of Long Island Court will not be part of this project, but patching could be looked at in the future.

What about seawall tiebacks and locations on the canal side of the road with no seawall.

Response: The Road Commission will determine what property gets the tiebacks and will be responsible to gravel from the road to the canal.

Several concerns were voiced about the markers on the roadway showing the right-of-way and appearing to move the road including areas where the road deviates from the plat; concerns about sheds in the right-of-way; can the highway by user statute be used to set the road where it currently is; there appears to be encroachments on platted lots, but the road has been there for years; what about moving the DTE poles.

Response: What is surveyed is believed to be the location of the roadway. At the request of the residents, the Supervisor will contact the Road Commission on this issue. DTE will be moving its poles.

Several concerns about the height of the road to the driveways and cross drains for drainage.

Response: *We expect the Road Commission to feather down the road to the driveways. The cross drains are not going to change.*

One resident was concerned that one side of the road is within 18 inches of his garage. How close will the road be to the properties?

Response: *Survey markers should outline location of road.*

During construction can they drain under the road or next to the road; where will the water go; was soil bore testing done and did someone verify the price of the concrete? Are performance bonds required?

Response: *No drains under the road it is set to contours of different properties. Road Commission prepared all engineering specs. Road to lake will be responsibility of residents. Township Engineer reviewed original quote and concrete cost. The Road Commission is bidding the project and outlines the requirements to bid. (Note: A resident also explained responsibility of homeowners to take care of their own property).*

If no drains under the road, water will amass during a rainstorm. Why can't they put pipe under the road?

Response: *The Road Commission will install cross drains only.*

How long will the project take; when will it start; what do you plan for fire safety and the cost for the project.

Response: *The project will likely start in early September and last about two weeks. Fire safety will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. The projected cost of the project is \$314,814,00. Contributions to reduce the cost of the project are expected from the St. Clair County Road Commission in the amount of \$100,000.00; Township of Ira in the amount of \$25,000.00 and Peter Meier in the amount of \$25,000.00. More information on the cost will be available at the next public hearing. (A resident also advised that additional funding totaling \$6,000.00 will also be available to reduce the cost of the project).*

How are you deciding the cost per lot when someone owns more than one lot and when a person owns 2 lots is he charged for 2 lots.

Response: *Assessor Reeder explained the lot (unit) and 2 lots (1.75 unit) projection. Attorney Anderson discussed value to each property the same not doubled.*

Objection by resident. Norm Augustine is totally opposed to the project; safety is not being addressed and has been a problem on the road for years - people drive too fast; who gets the most benefit - the people at the end of the road so the cost should be determined on weighted average; height of road too high - a ramp will need to be added to his driveway; a wall is being built which will stop drainage; if project cost too high will it be cancelled. Resident Walter Walchak also agreed with these statements.

Response: *If it is determined that the project cost will increase by 10% over the projected cost, an additional public hearing will be scheduled to decide if the project should continue.*

What will happen when the road is salted by the Road Commission. Can the Road Commission use sand instead of salt? What about damage to the road by large trucks.

Response: *This is a public road and the Road Commission is responsible for the road. The Road Commission will salt the road but no sand will be used.*

Will a representative of the Road Commission be at the next meeting?

Response: *Yes, I have been advised that a representative of the Road Commission will be at the next meeting to answer your questions.*

A resident also offered to help his neighbors pick up groceries during the construction period when the road is closed.

No further questions or comments from the public, the Public Hearing for the Long Island Court Paving Special Assessment District project closed at 7:55 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

RES 21-06-01 Long Island Court Paving Special Assessment District Resolution #3

J. Endres Jr. moved to adopt Resolution 21-06-01 the Long Island Court Special Assessment District Resolution #3, supported by T. Eder.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Eder, Thomas Lauer, and
Jean Corbat

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss and on the motion of J. Endres Jr., the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Corbat, Clerk