

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
IRA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AUGUST 4, 2021**

The Ira Township Board of Trustees met in the board room of the Ira Township Hall on August 4, 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, DPS Supervisor, Jason Keller, Fire Chief, William Hazelton, St. Clair County Road Commission, and Christine Anderson, Township Attorney

Public Hearing called to order by J. Endres Jr. at 7:02 p.m.

**LONG ISLAND COURT PAVING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT PROJECT  
PUBLIC HEARING #2**

Public present: The following residents signed in at the meeting: Nancy Rickel, Tom Rickel, Fran Robinson, Robert Goldenbogen, JoAnn Augustine, Norm Augustine, William Dee, James Fairchild, Ed Steinmetz, Alan Brenner, John Bieda, John Thielk, Kathy Alward, Joseph B. Kelly III, Ronald Wood, Jr., Gerald Fortner, Amy Breight, Bill Bates, Mike Gordon, Walter Walchak, Wilfred Stephenson, Debbra Stephenson, Robert Bates, Kristie Liederman, Kurt Liederman, Robert Bernardi. Several other people were also in attendance but did not sign in.

The following residents offered comments or objections at the meeting: Nancy Rickel, Tom Rickel, Fran Robinson, Robert Goldenbogen, JoAnn Augustine, Norm Augustine, James Fairchild, John Bieda, John Thielk, Bill Bates, Mike Gordon, Walter Walchak, Wilfred Stephenson, Robert Bates, Kurt Liederman, Robert Bernardi and Deborah Shellman.

The purpose of this public hearing is to review the special assessment roll and hear any comments or objections to the roll. Supervisor Endres summarized the project thus far, provided an update since the first public hearing held on June 2, 2021 and advised what to expect going forward. Other presentations were also made. DPS Supervisor Hiltunen recapped the work completed on the Hydrant and Stop Box Replacement Project paid by Township funds. Treasurer Lauer explained the estimated total cost of the Special Assessment District, unit breakdown and interest rate to be charged. Assessor Reeder explained how each parcel or unit will be assessed. St. Clair County Road Commission representative William Hazelton outlined the history of the project including, award to Boddy Construction Company, DTE pole replacement by September 1, 2021, estimated earliest start date September 15, 2021, estimated two-week road closure and temporary access from Water Works Drive.

Comments/questions from the public (responses as noted):

Several concerns were voiced about moving the road, the proposed location of the road to garages and seawalls and request for an overlay of the proposed road to the existing road.

**Response by Hazelton:** Road Commission decided to keep the road in the platted right-of-way, but he will look into the highway by user statute.

How can the residents use their boats during construction?

**Response by Endres:** Peter Meier has offered to allow residents to use the boat wells on his property during road construction.

Homeowners hesitant about the project and the stability of the new sections of the road.

**Response by Hazelton:** The property is low and more road base will provide stability for the road.

Several concerns about the speed limit on the road and speeding drivers when project is complete. Also, statement that a prior court order set the speed limit at 15 miles per hour.

**Response by Hazelton:** *This is currently a gravel road and technically is 55 miles per hour set by State law. Speed limit will likely be 25 miles per hour. No knowledge of court ordered speed limit.*

Several concerns about seawall tiebacks and locations to the road, how can they determine where the proposed road will be placed, concerns about parking cars in driveways.

**Response by Hazelton:** *If tiebacks in road they will adjust them. The markings are CP-Control Points and RW-Right of Way. This might help clarify where the road is proposed.*

Several concerns about using the highway by user statute and adverse possession and need for easements and belief by some homeowners thought nothing will be moved.

**Response by Hazelton:** *The Road Commission considers the expense and timeline to obtain right-of-way easements for the road if not placed in the platted right-of-way.*

**Response by Endres:** *Project is in platted right-of-way that is where the road will be.*

When will DTE move the poles, need information regarding utility pole at the front of the road.

**Response by Hazelton:** *Road Commission has agreement with DTE and poles should be moved around September 1, 2021, before project starts.*

When will the contractor, who agreed to grade the vacant lot adjacent to 8038 Long Island Court after using it for a temporary storage yard, complete the grading.

**Response by Endres:** *He will check into grading of the lot.*

Is there a performance bond for this project and are federal infrastructure monies available for roads and bridges?

**Response by Hazelton:** *Yes, 100% of the project is bonded. This road is not eligible for federal funds, bridges are eligible but smaller local road do not qualify. Other roads in the county also do not qualify.*

Concerns about building roads without drainage and using salt in the winter may cause damage to the seawalls.

**Response by Hazelton:** *Drainage was discussed at earlier public hearing.*

**Response by Endres:** *A minimal amount of salt will be used.*

There have been three large projects on this road and no fire safety has been set up. What has been set up for emergency services when the road is shut down for this project.

**Response by Keller:** *Arrangements are being made during the construction period. Boats from Ira and Clay will be available and the fire trucks will go down Water Works Drive. A fire truck is needed to pump water from the hydrants.*

**Response by Hiltunen:** *Fire safety has always been a priority and was set up for prior projects on the road.*

Can the contractor provide a timetable of what is going on through-out the project?

**Response by Hazelton:** *He will look into this.*

Several concerns about where residents can park cars during the project.

**Response by Endres:** *We are looking into using Water Works Park, parking on Water Works Drive and talking with marina owners to see if parking will be available. This is a decision of the Road Commission.*

**Response by Hazelton:** *As we get closer to the start of the project more information will be available.*

Question about use of speed bumps on the road to reduce speeding traffic, why not allowed.

**Response by Hazelton:** *The Road Commission does not put speed bumps in but he will check on road signs.*

Question about replacement of the Long Island Court bridge.

**Response by Endres:** *The Long Island Court bridge is scheduled to be replaced in 2023 using federal, county and township funds.*

Will Silver Point Drive be resurfaced?

**Response by Endres:** Do not know when last done but asphalt patchwork could be done in the future.

How wide is the right-of-way and can there be any markings for pedestrians like Silver Point Drive?

**Response by Hazelton:** The right-of-way is 15 feet wide and Long Island Court cannot be marked for pedestrians.

**Attorney Anderson asked if anyone objected to the assessment and Deborah Shellman and Norm Augustine objected to the assessment. Deborah Shellman presented a letter to the Board objecting to the Special Assessment District and advising of a hardship.**

No further questions or comments from the public, the second Public Hearing for the Long Island Court Paving Special Assessment District project closed at 8:12 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RES 21-08-01 Long Island Court Paving Special Assessment District Resolution #5

J. Jacob moved to adopt Resolution 21-08-01 the Long Island Court Special Assessment District Resolution #5, 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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jean Corbat, Clerk