

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES - SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN
LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PUBLIC HEARING
January 29, 2004

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order. Members present were Ritter, Fenske, Nelson, Buysse, Molitor and County Administrator Stomberg.

Nelson introduced Public Works Director Anita Benson and Project Engineer Seth Greenwood. Benson and Greenwood gave a presentation on the current status of county paved roads.

Meeting Recessed.
Meeting Back to Order.

Benson - I would like to have the following written comments noted for the record: a letter from John G. Bakker in favor of maintaining the paved county roads, a petition from individuals affected by County Road 66 opposed to turning the road back to gravel and asking the County Board to maintain all paved county roads, a petition from individuals affected by County Road 60 opposed to turning the road back to gravel, a notebook of information prepared by residents living along County Road 63 in favor of keeping County Road 63 paved.

Nelson then opened the meeting to public comment.

Curt Friese, Chairman of Russell School Board, living at 1573 190th Ave., Balaton spoke in favor of County Road 60 stating the road is a useful access to Rock Lake and to hunting areas. Also is an important connection between TH 91 and CSAH 5. Also stating that 12 – 15 homes may be built on east Rock Lake and CR 60 would be an essential link to the new homes. He informed the Board that he spoke on behalf of several individuals and encouraged the Board to maintain CR 60 as a paved road.

John Joosten spoke for residents on CR 63. He stated that CR 63 is an extension of Balaton and that five businesses need and use the road to maintain their businesses. He informed the Board that one new business is to be added soon and that businesses have located there because of the paved road. Joosten requested that business activity be considered when deciding the future of county roads. Discussed dangerous curve.

Richard Vroman, Chair of Clifton Township Board, stated that it is important to keep the paved roads that we have. He feels we should maintain our roads at least as good as our forefathers. Financing is a challenge. He is concerned about turning county roads back to the townships because the townships do not have the resources to maintain the roads at the level the county can. He suggested that the County maintain jurisdiction and reduce maintenance effort.

Dennis Wilde of Marshall said he would not like to see any of the county roads go back to gravel. He stated that a bad tar road is better than a gravel road. He stated he was not at the meeting to defend any road in particular. He is in favor of spending the money to maintain all county paved roads. Keep investment in roads, gravel roads are not progress.

Peggy Whictman a business owner along CR 63 stated she has been a resident along the road for over 30 years. Has 2 part time businesses. Serves on Balaton ambulance crew. She expressed concern for safety if the road was returned to gravel.

Glen Larson, 1018 CR 63 a business owner, Enviropump Plus, along CR 63 stated his business site was selected because of access to a paved road. He expressed concern over a curve in CR 63 that needed to be regraded.

Dave Lesfield of Balaton Auto Salvage spoke on behalf of CR 63. He stated that the business has been around for 31 years and that improvements were made to the business site because of the access to a paved road.

Craig Heil who lives on a township road close to CR 67 spoke on concerns of safety and asked the Board to consider the daily traffic. CR 67 has third or fourth highest traffic of roads being discussed.

Lisa Denartelaere of 1490 CR 66 and resident along CR 66 stated that the paved road was a factor in their decision to purchase their home.

Del Rutz, Mayor of Balaton spoke on behalf of CR 63 and all other paved county roads, stating that not to maintain the current paved roads would be taking a step backward and is in favor of Plan A. Rumor has it some of roads were originally paved because County Commissioners lived on them.

Gary Thooff 1415 CR 66 operates a cabinet business on CR 66 and stated that he is in favor of maintaining CR 66 as a paved road. Road was tar 40 –45 years ago. Wife is school bus dispatcher for Marshall.

Dennis Christianson, Custer Township Clerk is in favor of maintaining the paved roads to the cemetery instead of turning those roads back to gravel. The three cemeteries are very active.

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES - SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN
LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PUBLIC HEARING
January 29, 2004

Marcella Matthys spoke about a Lucas Township road that gets more traffic than the County Road and that the County should consider taking it over.

Joosten again spoke stating that this would be a good time to make the investment due to low interest rates.

Chair Nelson asked for comments from the Board

Ritter - I've talked to a dozen parties and all are in favor of continued maintenance of the paved roads and are willing to pay for it.

Fenske - I look at average daily traffic (ADT) and county roads like 63 need to be maintained. I do have a question on roads that have less than 100 ADT including rural and cities. We have to consider all the taxpayers.

Molitor - I agree we need to continue to maintain the roads where there is development and that the interest rates are favorable. Should look at roads that have a good paved parallel road one-mile apart.

Buysse - I've heard comments to maintain the roads.

Nelson - What I've heard is that the comments are favorable and that a 10-year bond is the way to go. Is anyone opposed? Is there consensus to go along these lines? Should we consider it further?

Benson - Are the constituents open to looking at gravel roads that need to be paved to also be included in the plan?

Nelson - That would make sense.

Bernie VanMoer of Amiret agrees that the roads need to be maintained but questions if traffic count is the only criteria for determining if a road should be paved or perhaps weight of trucks should be a factor.

Fenske - I have to question to large landowners. What do you think of the plan to borrow \$5 million as compared to \$3 million?

Dennis Christianson: It is up to you as Commissioners to decide what is best for everybody and what we can afford.

Beverly Evens a 43 year resident of CR 60 questioned the traffic count of 55 ADT.

Benson - ADT is done by MNDOT with a counter in place for 48 hours. You have to question if the data sounds reasonable.

Richard Vroman - If you can raise the levy that might be a better solution than bonding.

Nelson - Levy limits prevent this.

Benson - Based on the feed back of tonight, I'll pull together a draft of Plan C and communicate the plan with cities and townships. We will need to have another public hearing when we adopt the plan.

Robert Caron - Why waste time on Plan C – Plan A is what we want.

Benson - Extra work is needed to refine Plan A to meet the requirements for bonding and the 5-year plan.

Nelson adjourned the hearing at 9:20

Philip Nelson, Chairman

Attest: _____
Loren Stomberg
Lyon County Administrator