

¹**Minutes**
Ida Township Board Meeting
January 2, 2007
Ida Township Hall
4700 County Rd 6 NW, Garfield, MN 56332

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Orin Blegen. Supervisors Mike Rosenwald, Jim Conn, Deputy Clerk Julie Kirscht and Treasurer Palmer Krueger were present.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Blegen announced that the tapes being used to tape the meeting belong to the clerk and are only used to assist her in taking the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of the December 18, 2006 Town Board Meeting Conn made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2006 Town Board Meeting as written. Rosenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried. Blegen – aye, Conn – aye, Rosenwald – aye.

Roads

Road Paving Policy – Cost Sharing Guidelines Conn presented the board with a proposed updated Cost Share Assessment Guidelines. Discussion included petitioners' ability to get realistic estimates within the time frame outlined and more specifics in guidelines. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Road Paving Plan – Trisha Coyle Trisha Coyle of Vision Engineering presented cost estimates for upgrades on Lake Ida Way, 81st Avenue, Wahtomin Trail and Memory Lane. Coyle's estimate addressed upgrades and additional costs. Further inspection and estimates would require soil borings that could be done if the board wanted it done. Culverts and right of way issues were also discussed. Conn brought up the possibility of adding walking/bike paths along Lake Ida Way. Coyle responded that it would be a nice addition but would add cost. Conn encouraged the Citizens Paving Committee to apply for a grant that could help out with the cost of adding paths. Figures were reviewed. Coyle will send revised engineering estimates to the board. Blegen requested Coyle prepare an engineering estimate of Christopherson Road upgrades.

Don Erstad of the Citizens Paving Committee commented that we need to decide what is going to be done and then have Coyle prepare estimates. Conn responded that the estimates are needed to determine what is going to be done.

Rich Knudson brought up possible work on Sunset Strip up to County Road 61. Blegen commented that the flooding issue has to be addressed before the paving can be done. Wes Smith commented that the project could be added to the paving committee's recommendations.

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Conn mentioned that what Coyle presented was exactly the type of estimate discussed in Cost Sharing Guidelines.

Don Erstad/Citizens Paving Committee – Don Erstad presented the groups recommendations. The group met, looked at maps and concluded the primary roads around Lake Ida should be paved first. A Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 were recommended. Phase 1 would include Lake Ida Way from 61 to Wahtomin Trail, Wahtomin Trail, 81st Avenue and Christopherson Road. A total of 5.23 miles/400-500 people involved. Phase 2 includes Bedman Road (approximately 1 mile/100 people), and Sunset Strip from CR 61 to Burkeys Lane. Phase 3 would include Pilgrim Point to Sugar Sand Lane and Sugar Sand Lane down to the boat landing. Approximately 50 people would be affected. Erstad commented that the whole should be done as a package. Rosenwald stated that by doing Christopherson Road you are taking away the need to pave Memory Lane. An additional optional road would be the portion over to Eagles Landing and also Oak Ridge Road. Conn asked Blegen if county standards could be watered down when it comes to neighborhood roads. Conn wondered if cost was reasonable and if the affected residents wanted it done could we run a paving machine across feeder roads. Blegen commented it has been brought up before and could be done. Road restrictions and road specifications on side roads were discussed. Conn commented that that the township puts \$75,000.00 per year into the Upgrade Fund. Residents immediately around the lakes put in about \$80.00 a year into Upgrade Fund and off lake residents pay about \$22.00 a year into the fund. If we increased budget to \$100,000.00 it would increase the tax levy from \$80.00 to \$107.00 per year for residents immediately around the lakes and increase the tax levy for off lake residents from \$22.00 to \$29.00 per year. Conn concluded that the 72.9% taxes collected from residents around the lake has a much greater impact when it comes to building roads and paying the townships' way than non-lake parcels.

Blegen questioned when Phase 1 recommendation proposed by the Citizens Paving Committee could come up for a vote. Rosenwald thought we would have to determine what we want to suggest to the residents of Ida Township the amount to be budgeted. The approximate cost should be brought to the annual meeting to get approval. Conn commented on the difficulty of getting a good estimate by the time of the annual meeting. Rosenwald suggested we would have a good range of figures for presentation of Phase 1 at the annual meeting. Rosenwald commented further that we should present all phases for funding rather than request funding in increments. Conn asked if in terms of Phase 1 upgrading Sunset Strip should be included. Don Erstad commented that rather than phasing in the three stages presented in order, the phases could be implemented in any order or combination. Doing it all at once would be the best.

Conn motioned the town board throw its support behind the Phase 1 recommendations of the Paving Committee and to include the upgrade portion of only of Sunset Strip. Blegen seconded. Discussion clarified upgrading as meanings no paving. Upgrade includes CR 61 to Burkeys Lane. Rosenwald commented he agreed with Phase 1 as far as Lake Ida Way to CR 61 to Wahtomin Trail. Rosenwald didn't agree with upgrading Wahtomin Trail to the end of the road as he is concerned with possible double assessments for some

residents if all is completed as presented. If primary roads are to be done he wants to stop at the end of the primary road before it becomes a residential road. Rosenwald would like the Wahtomin Trail upgrade to stop before the Chippewa Trails Condominium units. Upgrade on 81st from CR 6 to Lake Ida Way is fine. Christopherson Road ties whole area together and should be done. Include 81st Avenue from CR 6 east to Eagles Landing. Take out Oak Ridge Lane, Include Bedman Drive and Sunset Strip upgrade from CR 61 to Burkeys Lane. Residents are not liable for assessments on upgrading. Conn commented with regards to the double assessment on Breezy Circle residents; if you stop on Wahtomin Trail at the condominium unit you are taking away the opportunity of neighborhoods to create a separate taxing district to pave their own roads. If road is not paved to its logical end you are going to lose a lot of public support. Length of road in question is about a 3/10 of a mile. Motion amended to include Bedman Drive in the Phase 1. Motion to support the recommendations of the Citizens Paving Committee to pave all the roads listed in Phase 1 as follows: Lake Ida Way from CR 61 to Wahtomin Trail, all of Wahtomin Trail, 81st Avenue from CR 6 to Lake Ida Way, all of Christopherson Road, Bedman Drive from the township line to Sahara Lane and upgrade only of Sunset strip from CR 61 to Burkeys Lane. Rosenwald seconded. Discussion regarding unanimous vote followed. With a petition it takes a majority. Without a petition a road paving can be ordered but it has to be unanimous. Motion carried. Conn – aye, Rosenwald – aye, Blegen – opposed.

Betsy Ross Capital Project Fund – Authorize accountant, Wayne Johnson, to create Betsy Ross Capital Project Fund. Krueger reported that our accountant, Wayne Johnson of the Chris Mitchell CPA Firm, needs authorization to create a Betsy Ross Capital Project Fund. Rosenwald made a motion to authorize Wayne Johnson to set up the Betsy Ross Project Fund. Conn seconded. Motion carried. Blegen – aye, Conn - aye, Rosenwald – aye.

Land and Resources, Planning and Zoning, December 26, 2006 – Blegen attended the meeting and expressed the disappointment of the Ida Township Board due to the lack of notification to the board regarding the Sugar Plum Estates agenda item. Sharon Underhill is disappointed in the Land and Resource decision to approve her variance request with additional conditions. Rosenwald reported she is fighting it because of the maintenance clause the county wants to add to their deed stating they will be responsible for the maintenance.

New Business

Duane Hammargren – ALASD Hammargren thanked the Ida Township Board for the opportunity to serve the past year as their ALASD representative. Hammargren reported on the sewer district happenings of the past month. Relationship with ALASD and CLRSD (Central Lakes Regional Sewer District) discussed. The Long Prairie River Plant to be built 4 miles downriver from Carlos was also discussed. ALASD passed a Lobster Lake resolution to support the CLRSE sewer project around Lobster Lake. ALASD would process the wastewater in that particular portion. The CLRSD Lake Irene/Lake Milona sewer project would be supported by ALASD. Hammargren recommended that the Ida Township representative support any sewer projects around

Lake Irene/Lake Milona as it would have an impact on the cleanliness of Lake Ida. The expansion of the ALASD plant is on schedule and the cost will be close to \$19 million as opposed to \$15 –\$16 million as originally projected because of financing and construction delays. Hammargren commented that ALASD has done more for area lakes than any other entity. The individual monthly fee is going from \$14.00 to \$16.00 as of this month. Assessment is higher because of the higher long range debt the sanitary district has. The March 2006 resolution of a \$2,500.00 ALASD hook up charge has realized \$400,000 – \$500,000 in hook up fees which contributes to payments on the debt. The \$2.00 increase in monthly fees also contributes to debt pay off. About 40% of debt payments will still come from property tax assessments. Ida Board members thanked Hammargren for all his years of service to the township.

Duane Hammargren - Cemetery – Blegen made a motion to put a \$100.00 fee on cemetery lots. Conn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Blegen – aye, Conn – aye, Rosenwald – aye.

New mileage rate – Kirscht reported that the mileage reimbursement rate has increased to .485 from .445 - effective January 1, 2007.

Lobby Day - February 13, 2007 – Kirscht reported that more information would follow. Lobby Day is a day that has been set aside for the past several years to give township officials an opportunity to meet with state officials.

Newsletter – Kirscht reported that Kilgore, Conn and Blegen submitted articles for the newsletter. Any changes or additional items should be submitted as soon as possible so a draft of the newsletter will be available at the January 16, 2007 meeting for approval.

Motion to support the recommendations of the Citizens Paving Committee was revisited. Motion was re-read by Kirscht. Blegen clarified he was not sure we need to act on all of the recommendations of the Citizens Paving Committees. Points of contention discussed were Wahtomin Trail and Bedman Road.

Glen Van Amber stated the dollars for upgrades should come from the Road and Bridge Fund not the Blacktop Fund. Also that upgrading and paving smaller portions at a time was more reasonable and affordable. Tax base in Ida Township has doubled since 2002. In 2002 tax base was \$130 million in 2006 tax base increased to 260 million.

Dick Berg commented that it was a free ride for new homes built after blacktopping was done.

Christopherson Road Upgrade - Conn asked Blegen if he would direct Trisha Coyle to put in an estimate for the Christopherson Road upgrade. Blegen affirmed he would.

Don Erstad commented he thought the township board was going in the right direction with regards to the paving policy.

Blegen reported the Ida Township was served with a summons. Summons served has to do with the Edwin and Karen Warner property on Little Ida Beach Road. The title company objected to the title indicating that the property description was defective. Description relied on lakeshore to determine certain distances and directions. As the level of the lakeshore changed so would the boundaries of the property. The township is listed as a defendant as we sold the adjoining property to Gary Walsh. Board consensus was to turn all over to the township attorney, Bill Leuthner. Blegen stated he would do so.

Fund Balances - Rosenwald went over his Fund Balances Charts with Blegen and Conn. Some discussion followed on how dollars are invested – particularly the Fire Fund Balance. Figures reflected on Rosenwald’s reports are preliminary and to be used for budgeting purposes.

Mail and Permits passed around for the board to examine.

Public Comment

Glen Van Amber revisited the motion to support the recommendations of the Citizens Paving Committee. Motion was re-read by Kirscht. (Motion to support the recommendations of the Citizens Paving Committee to pave all the roads listed in phase one as follows: Lake Ida Way from CR61 to Wahtomin Trail, all of Wahtomin Trail, 81st Avenue from CR 6 to Lake Ida Way, all of Christopherson Road, Bedman Drive from the township line to Sahara Lane and upgrade only of Sunset strip from CR 61 to Burkeys Lane.) Motion re-read as follows: “The Board supports the Phase 1 and Phase 2 recommendations of the Citizens Paving Committee and the upgrade only of Sunset Strip from CR 61 to Burkeys Lane. Motion did include Bedman Drive, but did not include the additional optional roads. Remaining issues are the length of Wahtomin Trail and Bedman Drive.

Don Erstad commented that it was his opinion that the board should get together on this and make a decision based on what is best for the area surrounding Lake Ida. He would like to see the board come to a conclusion on this or we could all be talking about this issue next year.

Don Erstad referred back to the points of contention regarding the Citizens Paving Committee suggestions. Approximately 600 people affected. 500 on Lake Ida Way and 100 on Bedman Drive. Can we make it two projects and fund at the same time? Would this be a better sale to the taxpayers? Conn would like the Citizens Paving Committee to address the issues regarding length of Wahtomin Trail and Bedman Drive. Requested the committee bring another recommendation to the next meeting.

Glen Van Amber added that it all depends on how big of a project you want to take on.

Rich Knudson commented on the 2 gravel pits on Bedman Drive. Can township assess more to commercial businesses due to wear and tear?

Blegen requested Rosenwald contact Paz to see if he is interested in submitting a bid on gravel hauling as quotes go out in March.

Conn would like his resolutions (Revised Developers Agreement Resolution and Revised Cost Share and Guideline Policy Resolution) brought up at the next meeting.

Rich Knudson commented he liked the New Business listed out on the Agenda.

Adjourn

Rosenwald made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 PM. Conn seconded. Motion carried.

Blegen – aye, Conn – aye, Rosenwald – aye.

Julie Kirscht
Ida Township Deputy Clerk

Orin Blegen
Ida Township Chairman