

## **Credit River Township**

### **Collector (170<sup>th</sup> Street) Road Overlay Assessment Hearing**

**June 17, 2013, 7:30 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Brent Lawrence, Vice Chair Tom Kraft, Supervisor Leroy Schommer, Supervisor Al Novak, and Supervisor Chris Kostik.

**Others Present:** Township Engineer Shane Nelson, Township Attorney Bob Ruppe, Township Treasurer Sarah LeVoir, Township Clerk Lisa Quinn.

Chairman Lawrence opened the Collector Road Assessment Meeting at 7:30 PM. At the beginning of the meeting, Resident P. Sanderson, 6949 170<sup>th</sup> Street, handed the Clerk a written objection to the project assessment method. He detailed his concerns during the Resident Comments portion of the meeting.

Engineer Shane Nelson offered an overview of the process thus far, including what the Township is proposing to do with the road, and also detailing the bid opening which was held this morning at 11 AM. Bids came in more favorably than expected.

Attorney Bob Ruppe offered an overview of the reason for this legally required meeting, including stating that this evening's meeting would be the last opportunity to submit an objection in writing before the close of the meeting.

#### **Resident Comments:**

Resident Paul Berscheit, 170<sup>th</sup> Street, offered a compliment to the Credit River Town Board for the good job they have done on encouraging Buckingham Disposal to redirect traffic off of 170<sup>th</sup> Street. Resident states he has seen very few trucks since Chairman Lawrence and Vice Chair Kraft had a conference with Buckingham Disposal.

Resident Berscheit also mentioned that the speed limit reduction has really helped reduce the speed of traffic, with the exception of one motorcycle that frequently goes by at a high speed. Supervisor Schommer asked the residents present to supply the license number of the motorcycle and he would follow up with the Sheriff's Deputy who has been patrolling the road.

Resident Berscheit also asked about the school busses that go back empty to the transportation center. Vice Chair Kraft stated that school busses are under the 5 ton posted limit. Chairman Lawrence said that although it would be difficult to ask the busses not to drive on the road, they could be reminded that the speed limit has been lowered, and perhaps that would encourage them to plan their routes differently. An update to this item will be offered at the August Credit River Board Meeting.

Resident John Riesgraf, Birch Road, had two comments. The first concern was to do with tax advice concerning Road assessments. Chair Lawrence answered that it was not the place of the Township Board or Township Attorney to give tax advice. Resident Riesgraf also commented that he was not happy that he was being assessed again for 170<sup>th</sup> when he was already assessed for his road (Birch) previously. He wanted to know if the residents be assessed again if 170<sup>th</sup> deteriorated before its estimated life. Chairman Lawrence answered that if that happened, the sitting Credit River Board would make any assessment decision at that time.

Resident Leroy Kroyer, Whitewood Ave., asked about the “direct – indirect” assessment policy of the Township- he wanted to know if the Township did that for all projects. Vice Chair Kraft answered that for Overlays, Reclaims, and Reconstructs the Board applies the direct-indirect policy. However, for sealcoats and patching the costs are deducted from the Road & Bridge Township fund. Resident Kroyer has concerns about future city sewer and water and curb & gutter assessments. Vice Chair Kraft says that although the Credit River Board does not expect that that project is imminent, there is no information at this time.

Resident Paul Sanderson, 170<sup>th</sup> Street East, thanked the Board for having the meeting and the information he has received from staff on the project. Resident Sanderson expressed disagreement on how the project was broken out as direct & indirect. His position is that all the property owners should split the total assessment equally since they all use the road to access their property equally. Vice Chair Kraft reminded the resident that in a way the whole Township was being assessed and that not everyone drove on it. Vice Chair Kraft also said that if all projects should be assessed the same

perhaps then all of them should be done at the same time. Engineer Nelson pointed out that state statute requires that properties be assessed in accordance with the presumed property value benefit to their property. Since direct property owners are assumed to benefit more greatly than those that do not directly have frontage on the road being repaired, the properties are assessed differently. Chairman Lawrence stated that the policy of the Credit River Township policy is to assess properties in accordance to their access, and that any change to that policy is not under consideration at this time.

Resident Sanderson also recommended that the speed limit be furthered lowered to 25 MPH on 170<sup>th</sup>, and that two stop signs be added on 170<sup>th</sup> to further discourage traffic. Engineer Nelson answered that the Road is now posted at the lowest allowable speed. If Credit River wanted to further lower the speed limit, they would have to request a MDOT Speed Study. Credit River Township would be bound to follow any recommendation made as a result of that study, and at times those studies have recommended raising the speed limit. Engineer Nelson also stated that stop signs would essentially be used at speed controls and that use is not mandated by state statute, and he would not recommend any stop signs in those locations.

Resident M. Kroyer, Whitewood Ave., asked about any payment overages from her original (Whitewood) project, and that if so, if that could that be returned to the Residents. Chairman Lawrence stated that there was no assessment amount overpayment on the part of the residents for that project.

Resident Kroyer also asked about Sheriff Patrols on 170<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Kostik reassured the resident that there have been patrols and speed warnings issued recently on 170<sup>th</sup>.

Resident Kroyer also asked about the streetlight that has been out for some time on 170<sup>th</sup> and CR 21. Chairman Lawrence directed the Township Engineer to find out what municipality was responsible for that light and ask them to repair it.

Resident Berscheit made the comment that he hoped the project would not be delayed because then the costs would likely increase. Vice Chair Kraft said that would likely be the case, and that is why the Credit River Town Board did not want to delay it.

Resident Ray Pardy, Whitewood Ave., asked about payment options for seniors. Attorney Ruppe said that there were no special options in place for seniors that differed from ones for other residents.

Resident A. Monnen, Whitewood Ave., asked why the speed limit was lowered to 35. He stated that he and others bought their homes when 170<sup>th</sup> had a 55 MPH speed limit and now it has been lowered to 35. He said he liked 170<sup>th</sup> when it was 45 MPH, and wanted to know why it was lowered. Chairman Lawrence stated that the feedback they have received from the majority of the residents who have attended the meetings is that they desired to have the speed limit lowered, and in keeping with the Engineer study that was subsequently conducted, the speed limit was lowered.

Resident B. Parrish, Whitewood Ave., stated that she is paying double because she has two lots; however, she is willing to pay it because she uses the road.

Chairman Lawrence then asked for a third and final time if anyone else would like to use the final opportunity to submit a written objection to the 170<sup>th</sup> Street Collector Road Overlay Assessment. Hearing none, and having no other business before the Town Board on this issue, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Supervisor Novak made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Kostik seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57.

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Credit River Township Clerk

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Brent Lawrence, Credit River Township  
Chairman