

DENMARK TOWN BOARD ROADS WORKSHOP SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2020

This meeting was conducted via telephone conferencing pursuant to the Chairperson's statement issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.021.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Kathy Higgins, Shawn Racine, Bob Rucker, Ron Simon, John Strohfus

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Attorney Gilchrist (Kennedy-Graven), Engineer Geheren (Focus), Engineer Stempski (Focus)

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 1:00 PM by Chair Higgins

Purpose of the workshop is to discuss Street Inventory and Financing for Road Improvements for paved Town Roads. Engineer provided 06-20-20 detailed listing (Street Improvement and Maintenance Planning Guide) of all street segments in the Township, including historical improvement and maintenance data.

Engineer's projected costs: Capital Improvements (Reclaim/Overlay) estimated cost over years next 5 years \$5.5 to \$8 million (range is due to the varying costs of the scope of improvement). Maintenance (sealcoat/Crack Seal) estimated cost over next 5-7 years \$300,000. Spreadsheet capital improvement estimated costs assume geotechnical investigation, grinding existing pavement and mixing it into the base, potentially some subgrade work and installing new asphalt.

Funding strategy should be determined prior to Engineering recommendations for any specific project.

Discussion of funding strategies.

Property Tax- impacts related to Town wide levying for improvements.

Special Assessments: Some members no longer support assessments of road projects to benefited landowners.

Special Assessment Policy- whether or not all road improvement should be assessed.

Bonding: scenarios of different bonding impacts.

Eagle's Watch geotech and topo survey work can be done at this time. Engineer will get the geotech and topo cost proposals and report at the July Board Meeting.

Discussion regarding savings by doing a larger number of roads as vs. single road projects annually. Engineer noted that there would be savings due to single mobilization charges doing larger quantity/multiple projects.

Discussion re: bonding/assessments. K Higgins not in support of assessing, points include number of travelers on the roads, potential challenges to assessments. B Rucker not in support of assessing. Large number of residents in the township who live on state or county roads, who would never be assessed by the town, that travel town roads. Assessment includes costs/interest to benefited taxpayers plus town wide bonding/costs/interest to those same taxpayers. Roads are used by all, not just those living on them. R Simon in favor of the idea to bond (town wide) to do a bigger project to make progress on getting ahead and make a proactive plan for addressing the roads.

J Strohfus- limited assessments, development roads are primarily used by development residents, not generally used by town wide residents. Maybe an assessment policy to address major developments. K Higgins noted that homes in developments already generate tax revenue for the town.

Question re: improving all roads vs. patching maintenance on some. Engineer noted that if a plan cannot be afforded, but a certain amount could be afforded, a recommendation can be made on how to best spend an affordable amount. Important to find a balance between what you want, what you need and what you can afford.

Board authorized Engineer to contact a financial consultant (Ehlers) to set up a meeting to model scenarios for bonding/levy impacts and not bonding/levy impacts.

Meeting adjourned 3:25 PM

Becky Herman

Denmark Township Clerk/Treasurer

Denmark Township Chair