

Minutes Special Township Meeting

Realignment of Ernie's Road

February 15, 2022

Supervisor Seliskar called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm. Present Supervisor Seliskar, Hart, Gruba, Deputy Clerk Gruba, Treasurer Stocks plus 7 attendees.

Property owners present: Dave Johnson, Warren Johnson, Cody Perkins, Ed Seliskar, Elroy Kuehl, Ernie Seliskar, and Nancy Seliskar.

Pledge recited.

Motion by Supervisor Hart to approve the minutes of the first Special Meeting, January 2, 2022, for the realignment of Ernie's Road. Support by Gruba and Seliskar.

The three options for Ernie's Road were presented to the citizens on the computer monitor.

The 3 options are:

- Upgrade the existing Ernie's Road.
- Red route: Move Ernie's Road to the existing undeveloped Lotus in the White Iron Villa Plat, plus an additional 36 feet west, that will include Fall Lake Township, Warren Johnson property, and go through the Lake County gravel pit. Warren Johnson's lots will need to be purchased for this route.
- Green route: Realign Ernie's Road with the eastern line of Dave Johnson's 3 lots, which will include Fall Lake Township, Warren Johnson, and Lake County property adjoining the existing Ernie's Road.

Supervisor Seliskar stated:

- There will be a 66-foot right-away on all three routes. No action taken by the board for this requirement.
- The powerline is not a concern for the red route. Minnesota Power said it can stay where it is currently located.

Supervisor Seliskar asked for comments or questions from the property owners:

- Q: Where would Ironwood Rd tee into the new road?
 - Supervisor Seliskar reported it does not have to be at a right angle and does not have to be straight.

- Q: Can Ironwood Rd be abandoned?
 - Cody Perkins said it “wasn’t a big deal” for him.
 - Discussion about checking with the other property owners to do so.
 - Perkins said he would have to build a new road on the other side of the property to get to buildings currently on his property if the current Ernie’s route is vacated.
- Supervisor Hart said the Red route is the most expensive.
- Warren Johnson said the Green Route is off the table because it is least favorable.
 - Warren Johnson said his property would be split. On Lake County Land Explorer determined Dave Johnson owns the 3 lots on the east side of the current road. Warren Johnson thought he owned one of them.
- Dave Johnson offered to trade a swatch portion of his lots for a swatch of Fall Lake Township property. The amount of property taken from him should be equal to neighbors on each side. No discussion or action taken by the board regarding his suggestion.
- Stop sign suggested on Ironwood Road. No action taken by the Board.
- Warren Johnson stated there are no wetlands involved in any of the 3 routes.
- Ernie Seliskar prefers the Red route due to the possible RV park. The snowmobile trail could be on the right-away on the Red route or stay where it is.
- Supervisor Gruba said with the Red option, snowmobiles will have to cross the road and run along Ed Seliskar’s gravel pit. Snowmobiles would have to cross 2 roads if left where it is now. Ed Seliskar agreed.
- Nancy Seliskar reported many people walk down Ernie’s Road, causing a safety issue.
- Cost of the project was questioned. No costs have been obtained for the project to date.
- Q: Asked if Lake County was on board with the red route? Supervisor Seliskar said the Lake County Engineer is aware. He said we need to select a route. Deputy Clerk requested clarification about the knowledge of the project by the county. Supervisor Seliskar stated it has not been presented to the county yet.

Supervisor Seliskar said it is a 3 to 5-year plan for Ernie’s Rd. Deputy Clerk requested clarification as no action taken on this item in the minutes. Supervisor Seliskar clarified he is proposing a 3 to 5-year plan. No discussion or action by the Board.

- Ed Seliskar does not want Lotus vacated because his father did not want it vacated.

Ernie's Road is currently on Spruce Road of the Villa Plat.

Elevation is a consideration for the Red route. It will require engineering. The current Ernie's Rd could be updated without engineering costs.

Supervisor Gruba stated from his experience, normally projects funded by the Minnesota Local Road and Bridge Program specs require rock to be blasted.

Warren Johnson explained about the speed limit versus the style of road and specifications on a project of his. The specifications depend on the criteria of the funding.

- Warren Johnson stated is also okay with the Green route. He would like to see the whole new Ernie's Road in the Villa Plat. He said there is a stable base under all of it. He said along the road Dave Johnson's pins are in. There are 2 pins on the Lake County property north of Cody Perkin's property.
- Warren Johnson said he would sell his 3 lots. He prefers the Red route because it is cleaner.

Supervisor Gruba said Ed Seliskar's property will be affected by the Red route, because it will not go straight up. Ed Seliskar said enough gravel will be used to build the Red route so the back slope would be gone from his property.

- Cody Perkins said Ironwood Rd can stay where it is and can be a dead end if needed. Discussed the need to contact the other property owner on Ironwood for a decision. No decision or action taken by the board.

Supervisor Seliskar questioned the next steps to be taken after a decision on the route is made. Supervisor Gruba stated

- Lake County Board needs to approve the option.
- If approved, need a written signed agreement with each property owner that includes the cost of purchasing their properties. They can't be purchased until funding is obtained.
- It needs to be engineered and we need to get quotes.
- Look for funding.

Deputy Clerk Gruba clarified a vote is needed to determine if the project will proceed after the cost of a route is determined.

Supervisor Gruba stated to expedite the project, all the property owners on the road could be assessed for the cost. Property owners in attendance did not favor this option.

Dave Johnson questioned if the route had to be voted on by the citizens.

Elroy Kuehl said leaving it where it is at is the best as it is cheapest.

Supervisor Seliskar asked if there were any more comments. No additional comments were received.

Supervisor Seliskar said he likes the Red route. Motion by Supervisor Seliskar to pursue the Red route. Second by Hart. After a pause, Supervisor Seliskar asked Supervisor Gruba for a response. Supervisor Gruba said, "I guess this goes to the county then."

Ed Seliskar commented there have been no funds spent on the Red route so far. Deputy Clerk Gruba stated funds have been spent. We have had two special meetings and a survey was completed for the Red route. Supervisor Seliskar stated no additional special meetings are needed for Ernie's Road. Business can be conducted at regular township meetings going forward.

Supervisor Hart made a motion to adjourn at 3:06 pm. Support by Seliskar and Gruba.