

**LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING- ELECTRONIC REMOTE ACCESS
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
4:30 p.m.**

Per the MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253, and in accordance with Public Act 228 of 2020, remote access was implemented per the requirements of PA 228 of 2020.

Present. Mr. James Novak, Jr. Chairman; Mr. Dale Duckert, Vice, Chairman; Mr. Les Nichols, Member; Mrs. Linette Weston, Board Secretary; Mr. Zeb Schons, Superintendent of Operations; Mr. Destain Gingell, County Highway Engineer; Mr. Erick Pearson, Managing Director

Guests: Mike Quaine, Joseph Suma, John and Barbara Waslyk, Carole Beckett, John Waslyk, Jr., Brian Wagner, Chalmers Fitzpatrick, Lisa Yarema, Sally Rheume, Diana Mathis, Susan Hough, Michelle Litkouhi, Amanda Shelton, Ruthanne Flory, Linda and Victor Dzenowagis, Sandy Peterson

The Regular meeting commenced following the Public Hearing.

Mr. Pearson asked that a Road Project Agreement for Arcadia Township be added to the agenda.

Approval of Revised Agenda

121620-184

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Duckert to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes

121620-185

Motion by Commissioner Duckert seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 2, 2020. Motion carried.

Approval of Disbursements

121620-186

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Duckert to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll dated December 17, 2020 in the amount of \$308,265.39. Motion carried.

Approval of Road Project Agreement

121620-187

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Duckert to approve the Road Project Agreement for Arcadia Township:

504-002-203129 Remove pine trees on Haines Road between 3947 and 4007 on the north side of road and flush cut the stumps inside the right of way. Estimated Cost: \$7,200.00 Township. Motion carried.

Managing Director Report

121620-188

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Duckert to approve the 2021 Meeting and Holiday Schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson explained that the Road Commission will continue with remote meetings through March 2021.

Mr. Pearson explained to the Board that the Road Commission was moving to a Premium Conversion Plan for pre-tax premium contributions and needed approval of the Certificate of Corporate Resolution adoption the Premium Conversion Plan.

121620-189

Motion by Commissioner Duckert, seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Certificate of Corporate Resolution adoption the Premium Conversion Plan and authorize Linette Weston, Finance Director to sign. Roll call vote: Mr. Duckert, aye; Mr. Novak, aye; Mr. Nichols, aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Pearson reported to the Board that the Annual Bids are due January 8, 2021.

Mr. Pearson explained that he has spoken with the President of the Lapeer County MTA, Mr. Ron Cischke, regarding the Annual Township/Road Commission meeting and it has been decided that the meeting will most likely be held remotely.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Schons stated that the Road Commission has had a good winter so far. The crews were able to get the roads graded, and then it rained, but for the most part, they held up pretty well.

Mr. Schons reported that the new loader has been delivered.

Engineering Report

Mr. Gingell asked the Board to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule.

121620-190

Motion by Commissioner Duckert, seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule. Motion carried.

Mr. Gingell briefly explained the Burke Drain documents to be approved. Mr. Quaine, consultant for the Lapeer County Drain Commission, gave an explanation of the project.

121620-191

Motion by Commissioner Duckert, seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Resolution to Approve Agreement to Occupy Road Right-of-Way:

WHEREAS, the Burke Drain (“Drain”) is a county drain in the process of being established pursuant to the Michigan Drain Code, Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended (“Drain Code”); and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2019, the Drain Commissioner received a petition requesting the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Drain Code; and

WHEREAS, an Order of Necessity was entered on November 13, 2019, determining that the petitioned location, establishment, and construction is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, and the Drain Commissioner further determined that the Drain is necessary for the protection of the public health in Elba Township, in the County of Lapeer, State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner and Road Commission agree that the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain should include the public roads and public road rights-of-way under the control and jurisdiction of the Road Commission, for which permission must be obtained from the Road Commission pursuant to Section 321 of the Drain Code; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner has requested that the Road Commission grant permission for the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain to include existing road drainage structures in and under the roads and road rights-of-way under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lapeer County Road Commission approves entering into an agreement with the Lapeer County Drain Commissioner, on behalf of the Burke Drain Drainage District, to grant permission to occupy road rights-of-way held by the Road Commission necessary for the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain, subject to and conditioned upon permission by the Road Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Road Commission Board is hereby authorized to sign any necessary contract documents on behalf of the Road Commission.

Roll call vote: Mr. Duckert, aye; Mr. Novak, aye; Mr. Nichols, aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Gingell asked the Board to approve the Agreement to Occupy Road Right-Of-Way.

121620-192

Motion by Commissioner Duckert, seconded by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Agreement to Occupy Road Right-Of-Way:

WHEREAS, the Burke Drain (“Drain”) is a county drain in the process of being established pursuant to the Michigan Drain Code, Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended (“Drain Code”); and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2019, the Drain Commissioner received a petition requesting the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Drain Code; and

WHEREAS, an Order of Necessity was entered on November 13, 2019, determining that the petitioned location, establishment, and construction is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, and the Drain Commissioner further determined that the Drain is necessary for the protection of the public health in Elba Township, in the County of Lapeer, State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner and Road Commission agree that the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain should include the public roads and public road rights-of-way under the control and jurisdiction of the Road Commission, for which permission must be obtained from the Road Commission pursuant to Section 321 of the Drain Code; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner has requested that the Road Commission grant permission for the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain to include existing road drainage structures in and under the roads and road rights-of-way under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Road Commission and the Drain Commissioner agree to cooperate to assure that drainage from properties and roads is unobstructed and that the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain is completed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and covenants of each, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Road Commission hereby authorizes the Drain to occupy and be constructed in, under and occupy road rights-of-way held by the Road Commission necessary for the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain, subject to and conditioned upon construction to be performed and constructed as depicted on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. Upon completion of the location, establishment, and construction, described herein, the all impacted portions of the roads and road rights-of-way shall be returned to substantially the same or better condition as such areas were prior to the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain. All excavated areas are to be filled and any impacted sidewalks will be restored or replaced to Road Commission specifications.

2. The Drainage District is solely responsible for, and shall maintain, the Drainage Structures installed under the roads and within the road rights-of-way described and depicted in the attached **Exhibit A**. The term “Drainage Structures” as used herein shall mean all storm sewer pipes, open ditches, tiles, culverts, trench drains, planting material, manholes, catch basins, vegetation and bio-retention areas residing within the Drainage District for drainage and storm water management purposes. To the extent permitted by law, the Drainage District and the Drain Commissioner, for themselves and their agents, representatives, officials, officers, employees, contractors, successors and assigns, agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Road Commission, including its agents, representatives, officials, officers, employees, successors and assigns, from all claims, demands, suits or causes of action for injuries, losses, or damages related to or arising from the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain or the exercise of their rights, responsibilities and obligations of this Agreement, except for injuries, losses, or damages related to the negligence or intentional act or omission of the Road Commission, its agents or employees.

3. The Road Commission shall not be obligated in the future to repair and maintain any Drainage Structures that are located under the roads or within the road rights-of-way that are also within the drainage route and course that have been installed, improved and/or maintained, arising out of or as a result of this Agreement.

4. Except as specifically set forth herein, this Agreement does not otherwise alter the Road Commission’s obligations, or rights to governmental immunity as may be provided by law, for road administration, repair and maintenance of roads and road rights-of-way under its control and jurisdiction as provided by law.

5. Except as specifically set forth herein, this Agreement does not otherwise alter the Drainage District’s obligations for the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain as provided by law.

6. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as relieving Lapeer County from special assessments levied for the location, establishment, and construction of the Drain in accordance with the Drain Code.

7. For any future maintenance and/or repair work on the Drain within the Road Commission right-of-way, the Drainage District shall obtain any and all necessary permits from the Road Commission required to perform said construction, maintenance and/or repair work.

8. The parties signing this Agreement on behalf of each party are, by said signatures, affirming that they are authorized to enter into this Agreement for and on behalf of the respective parties to this Agreement.

Roll call vote: Mr. Duckert, aye; Mr. Novak, aye; Mr. Nichols, aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Novak then stated that he would like to turn the meeting over to the Vice Chairman, Mr. Duckert, and recuse himself from the deliberation and vote on this petition because he was the petitioner.

Mr. Gingell gave a brief description of the portion of General Squier Road that was to be abandoned.

Mr. Duckert then asked if there was any public comment regarding this abandonment

John and Barbara Waslyk

Mr. Waslyk stated that they support the abandonment would like to keep the wildlife sanctuary that they have there.

Mr. Zeb Schons, Superintendent, explained that he will unmute all Zoom participants one at a time to give all a chance to speak during public comment session.

Carole Beckett, 5717 Lake George Road

Ms. Beckett explained that she is the President of the Metamora Equestrian Conservation Alliance, (MECA), which represents about forty members. Ms. Beckett read a prepared letter into the record.

“Metamora Equestrian Conservation Alliance (“MECA”) was formed as a Michigan nonprofit corporation for the purpose of conserving the equestrian and rural lifestyle of the Metamora area which encompasses portions of Oxford, Addison, Dryden, Metamora, Lapeer and Attica Townships. This area was developed as "Horse Country" nearly one hundred years ago and has retained that reputation ever since. Many visitors to the area come because of the equine community and many businesses capitalize on it. The pressures of development have made it necessary for a concerted campaign to preserve this heritage. Key to this community are the dirt roads and private trails. Approximately eighteen months ago MECA has formally secured the right to ride over the land of 29 landowners representing approximately 2,000 acres.

It has come to our attention that Messrs. Novak, Waslyk and Wagner have petitioned the Lapeer County Road Commission to abandon public right-of-way (old General Squier Road between Havens and Lake George) adjacent to their properties. This section of General Squier has been a decertified road for some time, but still remains an asset held by the public for future use. Important to the community at large is the fact that it would allow for public passage without expense to the public. The decertified roads have become a key component of preserving the equestrian trail system unique to our area. They provide key connection across the countryside while at the same time allowing riders and carriage drivers to safely avoid the active rights-of-way, which have dangerously high-speed limits.

Lapeer County's published road abandonment policy (which in fact is the same as the Michigan Statute), puts the decision in the hands of the Road Commission to determine whether an abandonment is in the

best interest of the public. While it is clearly in the interest of the petitioners, it is not in the best interest of the public. Dryden Township concurred at its meeting December 8. By maintaining its interest in the right of way, the County (1) preserves its property rights and ability to reopen a public road in the future (2) preserves important portions of a trail system which supports the equestrian lifestyle, which is an important economic driver in the community and (3) provides venues of safe passage for horses and riders making the roads safer for cars.

MECA's policy is to consider its landowners and community as it furthers its mission. We work with landowners in very creative ways to make sure that our mutual efforts are a win-win. We recognize landowners' rights and recognize the grace they extend in allowing horses to ride through their properties. The reality is, it is often why they moved over here and why they stay. The reality also is that a well-developed trail system will preserve/conservate open tract land and the equestrian lifestyle that makes our heritage and our community so unique. The old decertified roads are an important piece in this system by providing an east-west passage getting horses off of Lake George, Hough and Haven Roads making the roads safer for everyone."

To that end, we contacted the Lapeer County Road Commission in May 2019 to inquire about General Squier Road being blocked off on both ends. After several months of follow-up, we were told that the fence on Mr. Wagner's property "appeared to have been there for a while." When we inquired about the gate installed by Mr. Novak, Chairman of the Lapeer County Road Commission, we were assured that in this context he was a landowner and would be treated like any other landowner and would therefore have to remove the gate. The gate was never opened or removed. Instead, this action followed. It is as though the Road Commission turned a blind eye and became complicit in denying public access."

John and Barbara Waslyk, 4970 Fox Chapel Drive

Mr. Waslyk stated that he has been at this location for about thirty-one years. Mr. Waslyk stated that the road was decertified at that time and has not been touched since that time. He stated it has turned into a beautiful wildlife refuge. Mr. Waslyk ended with stating that he, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Novak pay taxes on their property and they support the abandonment.

John Waslyk, Jr.

Brian Wagner, 5038 Lake George Road

Mr. Waslyk stated he does not want the road opened. Mr. Wagner stated that the fences have been there his whole life and he is thirty-one years old.

Chalmers Fitzpatrick, 4434 Hough Road

Finished Carole Beckett's Letter

"In a recent discussion with one of our board members, Mr. Novak stated that if the Road Commission failed to abandon the decertified portion of General Squier Road that abuts his property, he would file a lawsuit. The action that Mr. Novak threatens to bring against his own agency (for his own personal gain) would be a tragic expenditure of public time and funds. An adverse possession claim, while arcane to the public (whose interests we are trying to protect), is well known to Mr. Novak. It will be a very fact intensive effort and we don't believe all of the facts are on Mr. Novak's side. We have approached Mr. Novak, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Waslyk in an attempt to work out an alternate East-West throughway which would be acceptable to them. We are hopeful that we can work out a mutually beneficial result, however, we cannot count on that and the stakes are too high.

We are confident that after Chairman Novak abstains from deliberation and voting, the remaining unbiased members will see the value in protecting the asset it holds for the greater public and deny the request for abandonment. In the alternative, should Messrs. Novak, Wagner and Waslyk be interested in memorializing an alternate acceptable route, we request that Road Commission table this request to allow adequate time for such

solution in which case we would be happy to support the kind gentlemen's request to this Commission at that time."

Ms. Fitzpatrick went on to state that the gated road looks like a private road and they have treated as such. It was not until the Dryden Township meeting that they learned that all of this time it has been a public decertified road that is gated and shut off from the community. Ms. Fitzpatrick also stated that to the point of it being a wildlife sanctuary and wetland, the horses won't bother it. They ride in Jonathon Woods and Seven Ponds and can still have nature preserved.

Lisa Yarema

Ms. Yarema stated that she grew up in Dryden and her family farm on Casey Road is nearly one-hundred years old. When John and her four kids decided to move back, they intentionally picked this area. The decertified roads have made it safe to get off of the roads as the cars are traveling faster. She explained, that we need to keep these roads that are beneficial to our community and our future community. Ms. Yarema stated she knows the Novaks and the Wagners, but would love for the road to stay decertified and not be abandoned.

Sally Rheume

Ms. Rheume stated she agrees with opening the road and sees no harm in it. To keep it for a few individuals, when it is a road for the public; she doesn't understand. She went on to state, it should be open.

Diane Mathis, Hosner Road

Ms. Mathis is on the Board of MECA, and stated that preservation is their mission. Ms. Mathis stated she would like to see this portion of General Squier to stay decertified and not let it go to abandonment. She stated, they think that preserving the green spaces and trailways is key to this area.

Susan Hough, 5047 Blood Road

Ms. Hough stated she is a lifetime resident of Lapeer County and has ridden horses all over Lapeer County during her lifetime. Ms. Hough spoke about how a network of off-road trails is positively impactful for both quality of life for the residents and economic development of the community. Ms. Hough stated that decertified roads are an important piece of many trail systems. Decertified roads allow safe passage between existing roads and trails and allow for lawful riparian access to bodies of water, such as Whigville Creek. Ms. Hough stated that she hasn't ridden this section for over twenty-five years, as the last time she went in that area she was turned away by gates. As for a wildlife refuge, Ms. Hough stated that the property owners might not want to discontinue the activities that would consider it a wildlife refuge. Ms. Hough explained that she understands the property owners do pay taxes to the center of the easement, as does she, but that is part of the public good. Ms. Hough went on to state that the decertified roads are an asset to this county and would hate to see it abandoned, because once it is abandoned, it is very unlikely that comparable access in this location will be made available to the public.

Michelle Litkouhi, 5251 Bordman

Ms. Litkouhi stated she is a horse person, a hiker and a member of the Sierra Club and stated she is eager to see it open. Ms. Litkouhi stated she respects it when a gate is up and don't challenge that. If she would have known it was decertified, she would have used it and maintained it.

Amanda Shelton, 2775 East Oakwood Road

Ms. Shelton stated that she is also a member of MECA, and actively rides with the Metamora Hunt. Ms. Shelton stated that she grew up in Michigan, moved out of state and then specifically moved back to this area because it is horse country. Ms. Shelton stated that we need to protect our heritage.

Ruthanne Flory, 3104 Jonathon Road

Ms. Flory stated that she has lived here seven years, but grew up on Hough Road and in the 60s and 70s she rode that easement all of the time and there was never any destruction by the horses. There was never a gate when she lived there; there was always a pass through. She wishes it to go back to the easement that it was and does not want it abandoned. Ms. Flory went on to state that she is not for any type of motorized vehicles on it; just hiking and horses to maintain the character of the area.

James Novak

Mr. Novak stated that his family has owned the farm for 42 years, and ever since he was a kid, there has never been anyone that he has known, that has ever gone through that easement because it was so bound up. Mr. Novak stated that there has always been a fence or a gate across there for the entire time he has owned this property. Mr. Novak stated that he does not want it open and would like it abandoned.

Linda Dzenowagis, 3405 Rock Valley Road

Ms. Dzenowagis stated that she and her husband moved out here decades ago because of the bridle pass and the equestrian feel and she agrees it is why people move out here. Ms. Dzenowagis would like to keep the road open.

Victor Dzenowagis, 3405 Rock Valley Road

Mr. Dzenowagis stated that he comes at this from the preservation perspective. Mr. Dzenowagis stated that they bought the White Horse Inn about eight years ago and decided to preserve it. He stated that you can always abandon the road in the future if the trail doesn't work out, but once you make the call, there's no going back. Mr. Dzenowagis stated that until the way is clear, he would like to stay with the status quo.

Sandy Peterson, 5438 Casey Road

Ms. Peterson stated that they have owned their farm for almost a hundred years and is opposed to abandonment for the beauty and preservation of all people, not just three.

Mr. Gingell reported that the Lapeer County Road Commission received a petition on November 30, 2020 to abandon a portion of General Squier Road, Right of Way, between Lake George Road and Havens Road located in Dryden Township that contains the signatures of all abutting property owners. This petition was receipted and notified Dryden Township for review. Today we received a draft copy of the Dryden Township Regular Board Meeting minutes held December 8, 2020 in which the board voted 4-1 against the abandonment. Mr. Gingell reported that the meeting minutes also indicated a letter in opposition to the abandonment was read by Carole Beckett, and stated that the Board has also been forwarded the letter from Carole Beckett, President of the Metamora Equestrian Conversation Alliance. On November 30, 2020 a letter was sent to the utility companies seeking any information if there were public utilities located within the proposed abandonment segment, and have not received any confirmed utilities within, the utility companies have all responded with no conflict, and are waiting for one utility company to send their response back.

Mr. Gingell reported that this segment was first certified in 1936, and in 1955 the westerly 0.92 miles were decertified. On December 9, 2020 the proposed abandonment section of right of way was walked and he observed multiple fences in the right of way, various sizes of trees were growing where the road bed was once located, overgrown where property owners are not maintaining and observed where property owners were maintaining. Mr. Gingell stated that it was wet in areas and if there were ditches, they have not been maintained.

Mr. Gingell explained that this roadway has not been maintained by the Road Commission. Mr. Gingell reported that there is an east-west certified road system; Hough Road to the south and Casey Road to the north that the Road Commission does maintain for the travel of the public.

Mr. Gingell read the proposed resolution.

Mr. Duckert asked if the roadway was to be open and ungated, would there be any way to keep out motorists with 4-wheel drive pickups, dirt bikes and 4-wheelers?

Mr. Gingell stated that it would be open for all travel. Mr. Duckert then inquired, "so it could not be labeled as just a horse or walking path?" Mr. Gingell responded, to his knowledge, that is correct.

121620-193

Motion by Commissioner Nichols, seconded by Commissioner Duckert to grant the abandonment and thus approve the Resolution to abandon a portion of General Squier Road:

WHEREAS, General Squier Road Right of Way is located in Section 21 and 28 of Dryden Township, T06N, R11E, described as a sixty-six foot (66') wide Right-Of-Way whose centerline is generally described as commencing at the Southwest ¼ corner of Section 21, thence easterly along the South Section Line of Section 21 to the Southeast ¼ corner of Section 21;

WHEREAS, 1.0 mile of General Squier Road was certified through the Lapeer County Road Commission's Local Road System mileage and the Act 51 Transportation Funds from 1936 through 1955;

WHEREAS, the Board of Road Commissioners decertified the westerly 0.92 miles of Right of Way at a Regular Board Meeting on April 15, 1955;

WHEREAS, The Board of Road Commissioners received a Petition requesting Abandonment of a Portion of the General Squier Road Right of Way is located in Section 21 and 28 of Dryden Township, T06N, R11E, described as a sixty-six foot (66') wide Right-Of-Way whose centerline is described as commencing at the Southwest ¼ corner of Section 21, thence easterly along the South Section Line of Section 21, 2,003.13-ft to the Point of Beginning, thence continuing easterly along said south section line 667.71-ft more or less to the South ¼ corner, thence continuing easterly along the said south section line 2,241.50-ft to the Point of Ending, said point of ending is also 422.4-ft (0.08 miles) westerly of the Southeast ¼ corner along the south section line of said Section 21;

WHEREAS, the above described **2,909.21-ft (0.55 miles) of General Squier Road** does not border, cross, is adjacent to, nor ends at a lake or stream;

WHEREAS, the above described **2,909.21-ft (0.55 miles) of General Squier Road** is located in the Right-Of-Way under the control of the Lapeer County Road Commission and is for public road purposes and is no longer being used as a public road, that no buildings of any kind or character are situated thereon and that the same should be absolutely abandoned and discontinued;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the public that said 2,909.21-Feet (0.55 Miles) of General Squier Road be absolutely abandoned and discontinued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a true copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Clerk of the Township of Dryden and a true copy also be recorded in the Lapeer County Register of Deeds' office.

Roll call vote: Mr. Duckert, aye; Mr. Novak, abstain; Mr. Nichols, aye. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Susan Hough, 5047 Blood Road

Ms. Hough asked the Board how a citizen taxpayer can get access to a decertified road that is gated. What is the process for getting that gate removed?

Mr. Gingell stated that he will respond to Ms. Hough directly by email or mail.

Linda Dzenowagis

Ms. Dzenowagis wanted to let Mr. Duckert know that motorized vehicles are not allowed on decertified roads; there are no vehicles going through, they are trails. No one wants cars going through decertified roads.

Michelle Litkouhi

Ms. Litkouhi stated that she posted her opinions on the chat and that people should not play favoritism.

Chalmers Fitzpatrick

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she believes that Mr. Gingell's answer regarding motorized vehicles influenced the vote, and should be addressed. She also stated that she reached out to Mr. Novak to see if there was any work around, and that it should have at least been tabled until Mr. Novak is off of the Commission.

John and Barbara Waslyk

Mr. Waslyk stated his is satisfied with the vote.

Sally Rheaume

Ms. Rheaume stated that motorized vehicles are not allowed on trails, if that is any type of reasoning to get this closed down, it was the wrong reason. There won't be any 4-wheelers on there like there aren't any on Polly Ann Trail and Rails to Trails.

Diane Mathis

Ms. Mathis stated that it sure sounds like the decision was made prior to the meeting.

Ruthanne Flory

Ms. Flory stated that she disagreed with the abandonment and that it seems like it was a priorly arranged decision by the guys on the Commission that are all probably friends.

Amanda Sheldon

Ms. Sheldon stated she empathizes with the board members having to make this decision and Mr. Gingell's presentation clearly was prepared to knock down anybody who was in favor. She stated the 55-mph speed limit on Hough and Casey is a dangerous road system on a horse or to a runner.

Commissioners Reports and Comments

Mr. Nichols stated that he was in Columbiaville and they did a nice job on that bridge.

Mr. Duckert stated that he traveled a lot of these gravel roads and was surprised that they got them back into decent shape after the snow we had. That is tough on these gravel roads, so thank the guys for getting them back in shape.

Being no further business, Chairman Novak declared the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

James Novak Jr., Chairman

Linette Weston, Board Secretary