

Garrett Myland – said that the DEQ won't allow a culvert to replace a bridge. Once a bridge is condemned and five years have passed, it is removed from the National Bridge Registry so any work performed on the bridge would be 100% at the road commissions expense.

Tim Carls – asked if a traffic count had been done on the road before the bridge was closed.

Garrett Myland – traffic counts are not done on gravel roads due to uneven surfaces providing false results.

Mr. Russell stated he has owned the property from Sevison Road to the river since the late 1960's and there is more traffic now than back then.

Mr. Bush stated that you could access the river from the other side on Haybridge Road.

Jack Coleman referenced a letter received by the road commission from Mr. Graber stating that his house burned down and had the bridge been open the Constantine Fire Dept. would have been able to get there and save his house.

Tim Carls thinks the park should renovate the launch and patrol the area better.

Rodney Chupp asked about the previous history and Mr. Russell said previous discussions were to move the road north and take part of their field.

Vince Mifsud is against abandoning as the canoe and park is good for county economy and we will never get it back if abandoned.

Mr. Russell never saw the map that Garrett Myland presented from the file on this bridge. He believes a plan came about after his conversation with Bruce Jones.

Rodney Chupp said he has received contact from a couple other farmers with similar situations and if the road commission is willing to abandon the bridge then they might also bring their request to the board and then we would be setting a precedence.

Dave Allen is concerned about the long-term liability facing the road commission and the structure is fading fast.

Rodney Chupp asked Mr. Russell what would be the chances of having a launch on the other side of the road and he said there was a pretty good chance, as he has no plans on that side of the river right now.

Tim Carls asked if the township would get the \$2,850 that the road commission receives from MDOT for the road? Rodney prefers we verify if the township does not want to take over the road we verify who gets the \$2,850.

John Lindsey said he had previous conversations with previous township supervisor Gordie Evilsizor and he had no intentions of taking over the road.

Tim wants to discuss the entire issue with his Board at their next meeting on February 15th.

Motion by Commissioner Chupp seconded by Commissioner Mifsud to recess the Public Hearing on Haybridge Road Abandonment until February 17, 2021 Work Session. Motion carried

Motion by Vice-Chairman Shafer seconded by Commissioner Chupp to create a Resolution to Abandon Haybridge Road. Discussions took place followed by a Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Commissioner Chupp to table the motion to Abandon Haybridge Road.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

Motion by Commissioner Mifsud seconded by Commissioner Chupp to designate Featherstone Road from M-66 to Shimmel Road and Shimmel Road from Featherstone Road to M-86 as an emergency detour route for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS.....the Michigan Department of Transportation has ownership of a bridge which crosses the Prairie River on M-66, located between Findley Road and Hackman Road, that has been deemed scour critical and is required to have an emergency detour route.

WHEREAS.....the St. Joseph County Road Commission has ownership and Right of Way of Featherstone Road from M-66 to Shimmel Road and Shimmel Road from Featherstone Road to M-86.

WHEREAS.....the St. Joseph County Road Commission will permit the Michigan Department of Transportation to place emergency detour route signs along Shimmel Road and Featherstone Road and designate the route as the emergency detour for M-66 until the bridge is replaced, rehabilitated or deemed not scour critical.

WHEREAS.....the Michigan Department of Transportation will be required to maintain the emergency detour route signs which are installed along Featherstone Road and Shimmel Road.

WHEREAS.....the Michigan Department of Transportation will remove the emergency detour route signs when the bridge is replaced, rehabilitated or deemed not scour critical.

Roll Call Vote taken: Ayes: Chupp, Coleman, Mifsud, Shafer, Allen

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

I, Julie A. Mayuiers, Clerk of the Board of County Road Commission of the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy as recorded in the minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2021.

Julie A. Mayuiers

Julie A. Mayuiers
Clerk of the Board

Commissioners Comments:

Mifsud: He asked John Lindsey how much fuel is going to be for this year. John indicated it is hard to give him that number due to unforeseen overtime and storms we may encounter throughout the year. He was glad to have the conversations on Haybridge Road Abandonment tonight, a lot of good information was discussed.

Coleman: He took the opportunity to ride along with Tom Scott in a plow this past Sunday. He was really impressed with the plowing.

Chupp: It was good that we took the time tonight to show the public we take their requests seriously and try to learn from our discussions. A Burr Oak superintendence Dennis Root passed away in

December and the new superintendent described Dennis as somebody to ask questions of and to understand things and tonight was a good example of that and we did the right thing by recessing the Public Hearing to gather further information.

Shafer: Great discussions tonight. I hope we can continue to meet in person.

Allen: Allowing people to state their opinions is important and he's anxious to hear what Florence Township thinks of the discussions. We will be back here on February 17th to discuss the Haybridge Abandonment again.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

David H. Allen, Chairman

Julie Mayuiers, Clerk of the Board
