

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

MINUTES

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and noted the reason for the special meeting was to discuss and vote on the Bradley Road project.

Members present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Jane Wright, Treasurer Pat Knikelbine, Trustee Chris Roerig, and Trustee Damien Jarzembowski.

Members absent: None.

Also present: Manager Phil Quade and Allegan County Road Commissioner Bill Nelson.

Wester opened the special meeting to public comment. Tina Oonk voiced concern over what tree cutting might take place. Quade introduced Nelson who stated the terrain requires ditches and a greater width than current footprint. Julie Abel verified the road could not be paved on the current footprint. Jacqueline Carey stated she is adamantly against the project. Wester stated he has spoken to the fire department and the project would improve the safety of the residents. Lance Gilliam stated he understands the residents desire to maintain the rural character of the road and the board should listen to the residents. Wester presented 2 maps showing the opinions of the residents for and against the project. Dick Waskin stated some may have changed their mind toward the project due to a wrong understanding of the scope. Mike Oonk asked if the project goes forth he would like the fire hydrant moved to the property line between his property and the Masonic Lodge. Julie Abel stated she was told the decision to proceed with the project of paving Bradley Road was based on the majority of the property owners wanting it and she stated they have presented a petition that clearly states the majority does not want the project. John Migas noted the project engineers saved trees where possible. Theresa Wiley stated she sent in two letters noting the reason for her purchasing the property was due to the rural nature of the road. Hearing no further public comment, Wester closed that portion of the meeting at 5:40.

Bradley Road Work Order: Bill Nelson referred to the engineering drawings for the project and went through the proposed road construction in detail. Wright stated she stands by her opinion that the board has to represent the community and is against the project due to the resident's desires. Jarzembowski agreed but stated in future better communication with residents should take place to ensure their understanding of a project. **Motion by Jarzembowski, seconded by Wright not to proceed with road construction on Bradley Road due to the majority of the residents being against the project.** Roerig asked if the board has considered the impact to future development. Board agreed the residents are aware of the impact, and acknowledged there are some residents that want the paving project. Extensive additional discussion took place with Wright calling the question at 5:55. Motion denied 2 to 3 with Wester, Knikelbine, and Roerig voting against. Quade verified with Nelson that the work order

to pave Bradley Road was approved at a previous meeting but the county gives the local municipality an opportunity to cancel a project once the actual costs are known. Wright verified with Nelson the board is not required to formally award the project to the low bidder and that since the motion to cancel was denied, the project goes forward to completion as presented.

Public comment was offered. Jacqueline Carey, and Mike Oonk voiced their disappointment with the decision. Dick Waskin applauded the board for seeing the project through and showing leadership. Mrs. Hunt stated the residents were lead on to believe the majority would rule and did not want the project to have any impact on her property. John Migas stated he owns a lot of property on the road and has plans to develop it. Having no further comments, public comment was closed.

Motion by Roerig, seconded by Wester to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date

Bill Wester, Township Supervisor

Date