

**Credit River Township**  
**Collector (170<sup>th</sup> Street) Road Improvement Meeting**

**April 17, 2013**

**Members Present:** Chairman Brent Lawrence, Vice Chair Tom Kraft, Supervisor Leroy Schommer, Supervisor Chris Kostik.

**Members Absent:** Supervisor Al Novak.

**Others Present:** Township Attorney Bob Ruppe, Township Engineer Shane Nelson, Township Treasurer Sarah LeVoir, Township Clerk Lisa Quinn.

**Open Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Lawrence opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced the Board and Staff.

**Opening Comments:** Supervisor Tom Kraft opened the meeting with a short explanation of the Credit River Township 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Credit River Township CIP is on the Credit River Township Website. The CIP details Credit River's strategy of overlaying roads to delay more costly road reconstructions.

Township Attorney Ruppe spoke about the 429 statute and how it affects these types of projects. This is the first of two hearings that are required to be held regarding this project. This is called the Improvement Hearing. The second meeting will be the assessment hearing, and an amount that is proposed to be assessed specific to your property will be provided to you at that time.

Supervisor Leroy Schommer explained that 170<sup>th</sup> was "turned over" in 2002, and went from a County Road to a Township Road. At that time an overlay was applied to it. In 2009 a crack fill was done. 170<sup>th</sup> is approximately 1 mile long.

**Engineer's Report.** Engineer Nelson gave a brief overview of the project, detailing properties affected, the proposed improvements, a proposed schedule, an estimate of the assessment per property, and the need for the project.

Chairman Lawrence then opened up the floor for comments and questions from the Residents.

**Resident Comments:**

Resident Jerome Michels, Birch Road, asked why the overlay is not being proposed to cover the curve. He also asked why the residents on the frontage road are not being assessed. Chair Lawrence answered that the businesses are located in the City of Prior Lake and they cannot be assessed by Credit River Township. Supervisor

Schommer answered that members of the Credit River Town Board will be sitting down with the City of Prior Lake to discuss this project. Mr. Michaels also asked about the Pearson property and asked why, given its development potential, the property owner is not being assessed. Supervisor Kraft answered that although that the Town Board considered including this property as a benefitting property, it was determined that the current property owner has no access and so it was decided that they were technically not a benefitting property.

Resident Del Haugen asked about load limits on 170<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Lawrence said that there was a possibility that Buckingham Disposal will agree to reduce stress on the Road if asked, but Credit River Township cannot restrict the trucks from going down there if they meet load limits.

Resident Lee Karow, Whitewood Ave., asked about the possibility of an annexation with Prior Lake. Township Attorney Ruppe answered that there are no current annexation plans in play at this time. Resident Karow asked about paving fabric. Engineer Nelson answered that paving fabric adds about \$100,000 to a project, and there are some problems that have been identified with the fabric.

Resident C. Michaels, Birch Road, asked why Casey Addition property owners were not being assessed. Supervisor Kraft answered that it is the policy of the Township not to assess properties that do not have direct access to the road being repaired and have another road that they can use.

Resident Paul Berscheit, E. 170<sup>th</sup> Street, asked if a stop sign could be placed at 170<sup>th</sup> and John Deere Drive to control speed. Engineer Nelson answered that by State Statute, stop signs are not used to control speed.

Resident Jeff Wendt, 170<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that he has been an asphalt manufacturer for 20 years and that paving fabric is a thing of the past. He also made a comment that people drive at times 50-100 mph on 170<sup>th</sup>. He asked if the speed limit can be lowered to 35 mph. Engineer Nelson answered that if density limits are met on the road, a lower speed limit would be possible. Resident Wendt also commented that he was for a bike trail on the North side of the 170th, but it could be potentially dangerous due to speeds on the road.

Resident Jerry Roiger, 170<sup>th</sup> Street, asked how many layers were currently on the road. He asked how much more it would cost to “peel a couple layers off and melt it down and put it back” on the road. Engineer Nelson said that would be a “reclaim” and it would double the cost. Resident Roiger asked for a crosswalk and stop signs mid-block. Engineer Nelson stated that mid-block crosswalks are not usually created unless there is high density housing and a high use destination on the other side, such as a park or

school. Resident Roiger also made a comment regarding the grade in front of his house and asked if that could be addressed at the time of any road maintenance.

Resident Bev Parrish, Whitewood Ave., asked if a traffic count on the road has been done. Chairman Lawrence said that since they know that the road is in bad shape, they have not gone to the expense of that. Resident Parrish commented that too many school busses travel on the road, many of them empty. Chair Lawrence said that unfortunately there wasn't much Credit River can do about legal vehicles that choose to travel on roads.

Resident Riesgraf, Birch Road, asked what the Township received from the County when it was turned over. Supervisor Schommer and Attorney Ruppe answered that it was a negligible amount meant to cover two years of maintenance. Resident Riesgraf asked why the Township would not pay for the whole amount of the Overlay. Supervisor Kraft answered that it is the policy of Credit River to assess the direct and indirect property owners a portion of the road that they empty out on. The Township does pay the additional cost for the additional ½ inch on a collector road overlay.

Resident Tom Burdick, 170<sup>th</sup> Street, asked how much a home value will go up after a road project. Attorney Ruppe answered that in general, appraisers estimate that home values do increase. Supervisor Kraft stated that the Town Board tries to match the amount of the assessment to the estimated increase in property value attributed to the road.

An unidentified resident asked about the 6% quoted interest rate. Attorney Ruppe explained that MN State statute required the Township to set an interest rate at the time of bonding or financing. 6% is a placeholder and the actual interest rate will be determined at the time of bonding or financing.

**Adjourn.** There being no further business before the Town Board, a motion to adjourn was heard.

**Supervisor Kostik made a motion to adjourn the Collector Road Improvement Hearing. Supervisor Schommer seconded the motion. The Collector Road Improvement Hearing was adjourned at 8:38 PM.**