

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

May 28, 2015

Present – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Brad Schumacher, Tom Rush and Randy Atwood. Supervisor Jeff Holm absent.

Call to Order – The May 28, 2015 special meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order at 5:29 p.m. by Chairman Jay Swanson.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions of Rhonda Lewis and John Menter from Sherburne County Public Works; Jolene Foss, Paul Whitcomb and Thom Walker from the City of Princeton; Mike Nielson and Jon Bogart the City of Princeton and Baldwin Township engineers respectively. Also present was a Deputy from the Sherburne County Sheriff's office.

Meet with City of Princeton Officials Regarding Princeton DNR Trail – Swanson explained that Sheriff Brott was contacted because of concerns with the trail going off of 313th Avenue which led to a discussion with John Menter and Rhonda Lewis from the Sherburne County Public Works who shared some of the same concerns as Sheriff Brott. The main concern is to devise a way to alert people to the fact that they are coming onto a roadway off of the trail. Nielson proposed a stop sign or any typical trail signage such as 'cross traffic does not stop' sign.

Menter said that Sherburne Public Works took over the parks and trails as of the first of the year. They are looking at ways of connecting the Great Northern Trail between Elk River and Princeton, and that the trail would end at County Road 45 and 313th Avenue unless they find out more. They are looking at a 4-foot paved shoulder on County Road 45 in 2017 until an off road trail can be established. If the trail temporarily ends at 313th Avenue, Public Works is looking at ways on how to go south or west off of County Road 45. Therefore they are looking for a little more delineation of the potential safety hazard of bikers coming off onto 313th Avenue. A temporary solution would be to install reflective flexible bollards speaking from a safety standpoint until it can be figured out where the trail will continue to go.

Swanson stressed that Baldwin Township never wanted to stop the trail. Trails and parks are extremely important to the people of Baldwin. Safe decisions need to be made, though, as cars are already being driven on the trail. Menter also agreed that Public Works are also very much in support of the City of Princeton completing the trail segment, but also stressed that safety concerns need to be addressed. Nielson said the contractor is setting to start paving on June 1. At the last City of Princeton council meeting the council was okay with ending the trail short of 313th Avenue, and since it's not certain where the trail is going, ending the trail short may be the solution.

Lewis said there are some trails that come off onto busy roads there are staggered gates installed. Swanson said the whole point is to install something close enough spaced so that cars can't drive through. Foss asked how policing of the trail was going to be done on Baldwin's end of the trail. A deputy from the Sherburne County's Sheriff's Office said that if motorized vehicles are stopped on the trail it would be considered trespassing. The local government would need to create an ordinance.

Walker was concerned that if rigid barriers are placed the City of Princeton at some point may be liable for damages. Schumacher said that the flexible bollard would be a solution. Atwood stressed that when you put on signs, you must assume that people are reading them. Whitcomb mentioned that Ramsey County took out their bollards because the kids were running into them. Again it was stressed that the flexible bollards would be the solution.

Swanson said that this piece of trail is different than others since the plan is to connect to County Road 45 but not until 2017. Until then this becomes the end of the trail.

Since safety issues has been addressed, Rush said his concern is the drainage problem. Nielson had the contractor measure the elevation of the ditch, and it was determined that the ditch does drain in both directions. Baldwin is talking about an 18-foot 15-inch culvert with steel ends that would cost approximately \$300. Whitcomb said the City of Princeton would be willing to pay a couple hundred dollars towards a culvert with Baldwin picking up the remainder of the expenses if any.

Lewis suggested stopping the trail where it's graded to date, and when the county does 313th Public Works could help with the expenses of the culvert then. It's worth looking into and moving forward with the trail as it is. Foss said the plan that the City of Princeton has decided on is to stop the trail 20 feet short. Lewis agreed that this would alleviate the safety concerns if the trail stopped short of 313th Avenue.

Rush said there are grant opportunities available, and Baldwin's goal is to connect the trail. Swanson felt it was normal to worry about drainage since the trail is adjacent to Baldwin's industrial park. Therefore it's important to look at all aspects of the planning process of this piece of trail.

Whitcomb questioned if the board did not know about this trail and do they not read the paper? Swanson stated that it was just found out now that pavement is being laid on Monday. For an \$180,000 grant and all these years planning to cut it short sans culvert and bollards. Whitcomb replied the holdout is the culvert. Rush stated that the engineers cost could have been rolled into the grant. Swanson stated that was not a wise use of grant dollars for Baldwin to come in and tear it out. Walker responded that the town would be redoing the ditch anyway. Rush stated that communication could have been better and that this is the first time he has met Mayor Whitcomb. Walker stated he doesn't know what communication needs to be and is under the impression that this is a trail that everyone wants to happen. Swanson stated that it has to be done

safely and the drainage uses need to be addressed. Lewis stated that if the county does the project in two years then the drainage issues can be addressed at that time.

Swanson stated that he knows people will be driving on the trail. Both Lewis and Menter stated that a barricade will be installed at the end of the trail. Swanson stated that was the first time he had heard of that happening. Atwood questioned who will help pay for the issues regarding 313th Avenue as it is a township road and a normal township road does not include a 4 foot trail. Swanson stated that the addition of the culvert at this point is not in the cards for the grant. If there is any way possible to establish the fact there will be a wider shoulder on 313th Avenue and address drainage concerns. Foss stated that would be an additional cost and not in the grant and planning is not an option. Walker stated that it sounds like a waste to him and he would be surprised if the culvert stayed intact. Atwood stated that a 4 foot shoulder would almost be burdensome for our road and bridge budget. Menter stated that the county could help with the design.

Swanson questioned if the costs the township has incurred would be paid for by the city. He would like this in writing. Whitcomb stated it would be the township's bill. Swanson stated that the township did not know trail was coming and the city had the opportunity to roll expenses into the grant. Swanson asked for the council to discuss at their meeting tonight. Nielson stated that the project did not go through the normal design project as it is a design build concept. The RFP came out in April and it is on a fast track to get it done. There was no time for communication. Swanson stated that the city has had the money for 2 years. Nielson stated that the price for a culvert from the contractor is \$1,200. Foss stated that there was a misunderstanding for the communication breakdown as she thought these things were ironed out. Whitcomb asked if Baldwin would like to receive the city packets every 2 weeks and then, if there is a problem, get ahold of someone. Swanson responded that it does not say anything about the courtesy. Whitcomb stated that this is step forward and try to keep communication open.

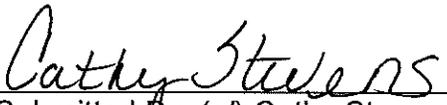
Swanson stated that the trail stops. No culvert and no hooking up to 313th Avenue. Walker stated that there are too many unanswered questions. He questions cars going up and down the trail. It is more than just a culvert and signs installed as he is feeling other issues. The city is not going to jump through a million hoops to do it. Baldwin has endorsed this trail. Swanson answered correct, the township does want this trail connecting to 313th Avenue and it is sad that is not. The culvert could have been addressed in the grant but is too late as contractor is paving. Rush questioned the town engineer his fees invested. Bogart replied 5 hours plus tonight, however, he could waive his fees if the board wants him to. It is in everybody's best interest to cooperate if that will help. Swanson stated that is above and beyond what is expected. Bogart stated he believes in cooperation and if \$500 is what it takes he will do that. If it helps 2 communities communicate with each other and get on with it he is willing to do that. Walker questioned what the standard was for a trail and Lewis replied that every situation is different. Rush stated that Bogart graciously waived his fees and the township will be working with the county in the future. It is a simple culvert. Atwood

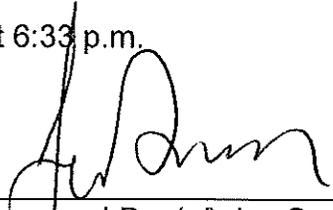
stated that the conversation should have happened a long time ago and a meeting right before the pavement is being laid takes a lot of options off the table. The only way Baldwin can connect 2 trails is by working with the county. Swanson stated that the township is not willing to cough up \$1,000 for a culvert. Walker asked if the township would be okay with county recommendations for safety at the end of the trail with Swanson replying that will be fine. Atwood asked the Deputy if the enforcement would be through Sherburne County or the city. Whitcomb responded that it would be the city and the Deputy responded that there is mutual aid.

Rush stated that there are 3 main concerns: safety, a culvert and engineering costs. Can we hammer out the culvert? Foss responded that she did not think we needed to hammer out the culvert as the trail is not connecting at this time. Lewis stated that Sheriff Brott reiterated that. Swanson stated that if we would have had these conversations 2 months ago or 1 month ago and it is sad that it comes the day before paving so there is no culvert possibilities. He has spent 6 years trying to get communication. Hoping to repair these issues and move forward. There is no reason we can't work together. In the future it needs to start with communication. It is a common courtesy. Foss responded that she will make sure that council packets, planning commission packets and EDA information is received by Baldwin and will maintain communication with Baldwin to the best of her ability.

Jolene Foss left at 6:32 p.m.

Adjourn – Rush/Atwood unanimous to adjourn at 6:33 p.m.


Submitted By: (s/) Cathy Stevens
Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township


Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

6-15-2015
Date

Attendees: Terry Carlile, Cheryl Dobson, Carol Swanson, Judy Thorson, Chuck Nagle