

TOWN OF ARCADIA

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Town of Arcadia Minutes of the Mill Road Bridge Public Information Meeting Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

The public information meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Schultz at 6:00 p.m. Open meeting certifications were met. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Jon Schultz, Barb Tock and Donna Brogan. A list of residents that attended the meeting is available at the Town Hall office.

Dave Pantzlaff and Karen Waldera from Ayres Associates were present. Chairman Schultz began the discussion by reviewing the history of the Mill Road Bridge removal project. He stated that the last meeting where this project was discussed was October of 2015, and felt that a lot has transpired since that time. A number of meetings have been held between the County and Ayres for the project to continue to move forward.

Schultz then turned the meeting over to Pantzlaff and Waldera where they gave a brief history as well. They stated that this project has been in the works for many years, and we are now at the end of the federal funding program. Due to the having to review the bridge and surrounding area for historical significance, the Town was granted a one-year extension. Pantzlaff continued by saying that this is a different project for their firm as they normally are involved in replacement projects. The other significant factor is that the bridge is located in a historical district with approximated construction dating back to 1910. To use federal funds, standards must be followed and historical aspects must be considered. The bridge is not considered historic by itself, but the mill building is. At that time a fact sheet was handed to the Board and audience. Pantzlaff continued by stating that a number of meetings have to be held in order to complete the project, one of them being the public information meeting. He stated that there are two owners of the surrounding property (R. Soules and M. Moe), and they have been working with the owners regarding a small amount of property that will need to be acquired to complete the turnarounds. The total estimated cost for the project is \$160,000. The funding breakdown is as follows: Federal, 80%, Local, 20%. The Township's share will be approximately \$32,000, but the County can be petitioned for reimbursement of half of that amount, or \$16,000. Due to delays regarding the historical impact, the current schedule is for bridge removal to occur in the spring of 2018.

Environmental factors including bird nesting also must be taken into consideration. Photos and maps of the area where then shown to the audience. Karen Waldera took over the presentation at that point by

explaining what was shown on each map as well as the property owner layout. To create the turnarounds acreage would have to be acquired from Soules. J. Schultz showed concern about the Moe property (Highway 95 side), and wondered if a turnaround would have to be constructed at all. Roger Onsrud asked why the bridge had to be removed. He also questioned who inspected it last. Dave Lyga, who was in attendance, answered by saying that he believed that the last inspection occurred during 2010. The bridge was condemned and is considered a liability. He continued by stating that federal funding is still available for the project so the Town needs to take advantage of that. If this project is not completed the Town would then be responsible for the entire cost of any issues that arise in the future. Bette Moe was wondering what part of the bridge is bad, and Lyga responded that the entire structure has serious issues. Another question posed was who owns the dam. Pantzlaff stated that it is owned by the property owners. He said that this project will not affect the dam itself. Harold Giemza asked about bridge ownership, stating that he heard the State had constructed it. The presentation continued with Pantzlaff stating that the turnarounds were downsized to a "T" shape after discussion with the Board and County.

Karen Waldera continued the presentation by speaking about the physical removal of the bridge; how power lines would have to be moved temporarily, etc. A question arose about the possible abandonment of the road. Pantzlaff stated that it only takes one objector to stop the process, and he knows that Mr. Soules is strongly opposed. B. Tock stated that she felt the Town needs to provide access to Soules' property. B. Moe commented that she felt there is no need for access to their property, so no need for a turnaround to be constructed. Discussion continued regarding property ownership that surrounds the project. At the end of the presentation and before the question and answer segment began, J. Schultz recapped by stating all that had transpired with this project up to current day.

Questions posed by meeting attendees:

(Q) Ken Moe – Who came up with this idea in the first place?

(A) There have been several attempts over many years to get federal funding, at least 15 years. At first federal funding wasn't an option, then the government decided to look at bridges that were liabilities. Funding was then made available. The previous Town Board determined to keep the project as a demolition. Jon Schultz added that the federal funding is no longer available if the project isn't completed as planned.

(Q) Roger Onsrud – wondered why turnarounds were needed. Why can't we just remove the bridge only? J. Schultz asked as well why the turnarounds need to be constructed.

(A) Dave Lyga responded that the State has criteria that must be followed with a project such as this. D. Pantzlaff stated that they could try to eliminate the turnarounds, but he feels that there would be safety issues if a turnaround was not there.

(Q) Bette Moe – The roadway hasn't been used for many years. Could it be turned over to them to become a private road?

(A) We do not have an answer for that tonight, but will look into it.

(Q) Harold Giemza – What is the shape of the mill? I heard it's really bad.

(A) J. Schultz responded that it's very hard to forecast what will happen with the building.

(Q) Roger Onsrud – Is the Town plowing both sides?

(A) Yes. Bette Moe also responded by saying that they plowed, but no mowing has been done.

(Q) Jon Schultz – Can the turnaround face the other direction?

(A) Ayres responded that it is possible. Pat Lisowski stated that the east side has less of a drop so that would make more sense to face it that direction.

Comments:

- Donna Brogan also asked if the State engineering group can be called to see if barricades only can be installed.
- Joan Guenther stated that there was no reason for anyone to go back there.
- Barb Tock – Soules would still need access to his property.

(Q) Ken Moe – How much does the Town get for maintaining the road?

(A) \$2200 a mile or \$200 for this road.

Moe responded by saying “let me give you the \$200 dollars and will turn it into a private driveway”.

(Q) Roger Onsrud – what happens when landowners don’t want to sell?

(A) J. Schultz answered that the Board does not want to go that route (imminent domain).

(Q) Bob Boberg – wondering why the turnarounds just can’t be eliminated. He also asked if anyone has looked at the bridge lately.

(A) Dave Lyga said that he would not want to walk across it.

(Q) Roger Onsrud – what will be discussed at the next meeting?

(A) J. Schultz stated that we will need to know if road can be abandoned.

(Q) Pat Lisowski – what about the turnaround vs no turnaround? Can we remove the bridge without having a turnaround?

(Q) Jan Giemza – Can we put a turnaround on Mill building side and not the other?

(A) D. Pantzlaff stated that the turnaround cannot be taken out on the Mill building side. We can only discuss the other side.

In conclusion of the question and answer session, Chairman Schultz stated that Ayres and Dave Lyga will speak to the State engineering group to see what the options there are regarding the turnaround, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Rohn
Town of Arcadia Clerk/Treasurer
