

**TOWN OF LA POINTE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PETITION TO LAY A ROAD: BIG ARN'S ROAD  
Thursday, February 17, 2011  
At 5:30 At Town Hall**

Called to order at 5:07 PM

Town Board members present: Beth Fischlowitz, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to accept public comment regarding the petition/resolution to lay a road: Big Arn's Rd/White Pine Rd.

All notices have been properly published, posted & mailed.

There have been 11 letters received: all are a part of the public record as is the petition which opposed the project.

Greg Nelson stated that he would not be reading all the letters into the record; on the authority of the Town's attorney, they are a part of the record without being read. He further stated that anyone who wished to read their letter into the record was welcome to do so.

The following is a summary of points of discussion:

**Beth Fischlowitz** read aloud a letter from Mike & Sandy Caswell opposing the project.

**Paul Brummer** read his letter (opposing) into the record & left a copy. He felt that improvements should be made to the road at the expense of the land holders before the Town considers adopting it.

**Meg Brown**, who lives on the road, said that she believes that the road is just an easement anyway, and that she is not interested in improvements.

**Chris Wolfe** pointed out that there are seven actual land owners on that road, and six of them don't want the road. She further noted that several people on Brian's Road (which adjoins Big Arn's Rd.) also oppose this project

**Aimee Baxter** stated that she would favor improving the ease of access for emergency vehicles only.

**Carey Baxter** read his letter aloud. He opposes the project.

**Charlie Brummer** said that he agreed with everything so far and added that roads should be brought up to town specifications first. He opposes this project.

**Clayton Douglas** agreed with everything so far. He opposes as well.

**Beth Alsgaard** noted that the Town Board has asked the CAPP (Community & Public Works Planning Committee) to develop a plan for a consistent policy for private roads that could become public roads. She feels that this road should await that policy.

**Meg Brown** asked if anyone knew what the cost of the road improvement would be.

**Greg Nelson** replied that the cost would not be estimated until a decision had been made regarding whether or not to proceed with the work.

**Greg Nelson** clarified the fact that any six freeholders can petition the Town to lay a road, not just the property owners on that road. That is the statute.

**Paul Brummer** asked if Greg Nelson favors the project.

Nelson responded that he hadn't said a word for or against.

**Ham Ross** stated that he doesn't think the Town has the money for the project.

**Greg Nelson** asked him to not mention his opinion prior to the voting; Nelson further stated that the purpose of this meeting is for public input. He added that the Town Board will do its best to make a decision that is in the public good.

**Aimee Baxter** asked how laying this road could be in the public good.

**Greg Nelson** answered that the decision will be made at an open meeting, and that the reasons for the decision would be clearly stated at that time.

**Keith Sowl** said that he doesn't understand why the land holders & service providers are not in favor of improving the road, but he doesn't think the project should move forward since the owners don't want it.

**Chris Wolfe** asked if the property owners could get together as a group & discuss the road.

**Larry Whalen** stated that he thinks there has been a failure of community organizing. He said that the Town Board is having the Public Hearing according to statute, and that if the owners want to get together & talk, they should do so.

**Keith Sowl** pointed out that the Town road grader could no longer do work on the road. Private roads cannot contract with the Town. [Clerk's note: a question was sent to the Wisconsin Town's Association in this regard. Their answer was no; Towns cannot enter into a contract for the purpose of working on private roads.]

**Chris Wolfe** asked if they (land owners) could look at an outside bidder. The answer was not discernible.

**Clayton Douglas** added that improvements to this road are essentially improvements to a dead-end road, which is not what some want to do.

**Wm. Hagen** repeated that the Town is awaiting an answer [from the Towns' Association] as to how much work the Town could contract to do.

**Greg Nelson** repeated that the Town cannot enter such a contract when it is taking business away from local contractors.

**Charlie Brummer** said that the process being used to make this decision is a good one; as a service provider, he would love to see all roads on the Island improved, but that perhaps the public good is best served by not raising taxes.

**Greg Nelson** agreed that there is a need for a policy for private roads, but that once a petition is submitted, the Town must act on it by statute.

**Beth Alsgaard** asked where the proponents of the road improvement were.

**Carey Baxter** wanted it made clear that the residents of the road are very grateful for all the work done on the road in the past.

Motion to adjourn: Ham Ross; second indistinguishable in the crowd noise.

Adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted on 3/21/11

*Patty Hobin, Town Clerk*