

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

MARCH 25, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on March 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Mike Goerke, Paul Janness, Dennis Dombroski, Jerry Trudell, and Margie Reh. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Hodulik

AGENDA ADDITIONS: None. Motion by Paul Janness, second by Mike Goerke to approve agenda as stated. Motion approved.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike Goerke, seconded by Margie Reh to approve the February 26, 2024 minutes. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

PHASE III CLOSEOUT: No report from the County Road Commission clerk. There is a high probability that we will never be notified of the final closeout. It was agreed to drop this from Old Business and assume it is closed.

GRANTS UPDATE: A conference call involving Julie Dennis of MDOT/TAP Grants, Margie Reh, Becky Rivard and Gene Hodulik was held on March 22 to discuss our chances to obtain a TAP Grant to add paved shoulders to Topinabee Mail Route as a joint effort with Mullett Township, supported by the Cheboygan County Road Commission. Reh provided a summary of the conference call highlighting the following points: Paved shoulders added to a paved road are not competitive,(she said they should have been on the road initially), there must be an end destination meaning it must include Woodruff St in Topinabee to M27, did we consider other alternatives,(yes all of them), people won't use it because of 55 mph (we have been using paved shoulders on Mullett-Burt and East Burt Lake Road for a few years successfully), is the base good enough where the paved shoulders would be added and not crumble, and would milling be needed to connect to the existing pavement (paved shoulders existed on West Burt Lake Road/Brutus Rd curve since 2013 when Phase I was completed).

Each of these questions was answered as well as Margie providing her with the ability to see our Handbook which is on TOMTC and our website. So part of the hour and half phone call was educating her on our trail. The end result was she would review this with her manager and engineers and get back to us by March 28.

As a result of this discussion, Dennis Dombroski explained how paved shoulders should be added to already paved roads. A meeting with the Cheboygan Road Commission Manager, Matt Hall should be scheduled to obtain the estimated life of the paving that was done on Topinabee Mail Route in 2022 in Mullett TS and 2023 in Burt TS.

Margie Reh volunteered to update Julie Dennis of MDOT/TAP via email with answers to her questions, provide more summary information, and reinforce our need to know what approach we need to take to obtain a TAP Grant in the next couple years.

It was agreed to have Becky Rivard write a Grant for the Highway Safety Grant available through MDOT. TAP Grants are submitted every quarter providing more time to create a grant submission.

The committee had a long discussion regarding an alternate route using Bennett Road with its Melvin Dirt Bike Trails property, less traffic, and 2 ft paved shoulders, and a shorter I-75 overpass with better visibility. An off road trail was also discussed which would parallel Topinabee Mail Route which has an 80 ft ROW the majority of its length minimizing any requirement for easements. This approach would require two grants (MDOT TAP and DNR Trust) plus a local match of at least 20%, probably costing nearly a \$1 million dollars.

CORNER STORE/EGLE STATUS: Hodulik gave an update of the EGLE presentation by project manager Melissa Kendzierski at the March Township Board meeting. The presentation provided a time line for an agreement with the property owner to be re-located and the corner store torn down by the end of the year. Then in 2025 the excavating of the area under the store will be completed, a 36 ft deep circle encompassing one lane of Mullett-Burt Rd and Crump Road which will be pumped out of liquids and filled in with sand, and finally the township will obtain the property for a trailhead. The Township Board's concern that the underground contaminated liquid "plume" is moving northwest toward the creek which drains into Burt Lake was also addressed. The nearly 65 wells will continue to be monitored to assure that the "plume" will not reach the creek.

2024 PROJECTS AND PROPOSED BUDGET: Hodulik communicated with Mike Spierling that 1/2mile of trail is to be paved continuing where left off along West Burt Lake Road which will end near Raver Drive, power sweeping the trail, and patching the stone trail where needed. Jerry Trudell volunteered to stake the areas needing attention. Paving the Gorge entrance off Riggsville Rd still requires a meeting with Karie Slavik, before proceeding. The trail will be mowed three times this season. This year's budget is divided into 2 area: Maintenance and Paving. Maintenance budget is \$9,400 and Paving is \$61,700, for a total budget \$71,100. Paving budget is \$52,800 for 1/2 mile of Phase I and \$8,900 for the Gorge entrance. Paving 1/2 mile per year will require 5 more years to finish paving Phase I, assuming there is enough money in the Trail Maintenance Fund to accomplish this goal.

NEW BUSINESS

WEST BURT LAKE ROAD PAVING UPDATE: Becky Rivard has been involved with the project and informed Hodulik that 3 ft paved shoulders will be on the road and that the Indian Road intersection going north will be paved again to include the trail as it is currently paved.

FINANCES

The **Trail Maintenance Fund** has \$ **78,894.92** as of February 29, 2024. Approximately \$ 5,308.89 remained in the 2023 Parks and Rec Budgets as well as the yearly allocation of \$10,000 which will bring the Trail Maintenance Fund balance to approximately \$ **94,203.81 on April 1, 2024**. So added to the \$30,000 Parks and Rec Budget for 2024 will be \$ 41,000 which will bring the **Trail Maintenance Fund down to \$53,203.81 by the end of 2024**.

TOMTC Burt Lake Trail account has a balance of \$16,272.00 in donations. The trail account at CNB has \$717.79 as of February 29, 2024.

PHASE III CONSTRUCTION COSTS: To date a total of \$**499,260.54** has been paid to J and N Construction, leaving a balance of \$**8,516.46**, of the \$**507,777.00** Phase III bid, unpaid.

MEETING DATES FOR 2024: All meetings will be at 7 pm on the 4th Monday of the month. **NO meetings in December 2023 or January 2024. First meeting for 2024 will be Feb 26**, followed by March 25, April 22, May 20 (3rd Monday), June 24, July 22, Aug 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, and Nov 18 (3rd Monday).

NEXT MEETING; APRIL 22, 2024 AT 7 PM AT THE BURT TOWNSHIP HALL.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

COMMITTEE COMMENT: NONE

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Dennis Dombroski, supported by Mike Goerke to adjourn. . Motion passed.

ADJOURNED: 8:15 pm.

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

