

The Township of Norvell

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ERIC B. JOHNSON, SUPERVISOR

ANNE M. HAGADORN, CLERK

DESERRE SAUERS, TREASURER

PAMELA JOHNSON, TRUSTEE

ROSE SMITH, TRUSTEE

**MONDAY, JULY 27, 2015, 2:00 P.M.
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE NORVELL TOWNSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD
HELD IN THE NORVELL TOWNSHIP HALL,
106 E COMMERCIAL ST, NORVELL MI 49263**

PRESENT: Supervisor Johnson, Treasurer Sauers, Clerk Hagadorn, Trustee Johnson and Trustee Smith. The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

- 1. To consider a contract with Jackson County Department of Transportation for the replacement of the culvert on Beech Road.**
- 2. To establish criteria for the Public Improvement Fund**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Johnson explained that public comment is limited to 3 minutes.

Various residents voiced their opinions and concerns. Letters were received (see attached) and read by the Supervisor. The creation of a special assessment district was discussed. A resident brought pictures of a County Road Plow truck that was stuck on the culvert. She felt that this is what caused the failure of the culvert. Supervisor Johnson will contact the Road Commission to see if they are aware of this. The cost of the repair will be \$44,437.50. The County will pay \$22,218.75 and Norvell Township will pay the other half (\$22,218.75). The money to pay for this project will come from Metro Act and Franchise fees. Trustee Johnson moved, Trustee Smith supported, to pay for the repairs out of Metro Act funds and Franchise Fees up to a total of \$22,218.75 plus the costs of funnels if needed with the stipulation that the pictures be presented to the Road Commission to show them that their trucks ~~did it~~ contributed to the issue. Under discussion a resident said that we should make sure that the pictures are shown to the Road Commission. There will be no special assessment because the repairs will be paid for out of Metro Act and Franchise Fees. Trustee Johnson stated that this action is based on its own merit as will any other future projects of this type. We are not setting a precedent Roll call vote: Sauers, yes, Trustee Johnson, yes, Hagadorn, yes, Smith, yes, Supervisor Johnson, yes. Ayes all. Motion carried. Did not discuss the Public Improvement Fund or having more meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Johnson adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Hagadorn, Clerk

Patrick W. Raftery

11839 Beech Road

Brooklyn, MI 49230

734.341.8770

praftery59@gmail.com

To: Norvell Township Board,

Mr. Eric Johnson, Supervisor, (ejohnson@norvelltownship.com)

Ms. Anne Hagadom, Clerk, (ahagadom@norvelltownship.com)

Ms. Deserre Sauers, Treasurer, (dsauers@norvelltownship.com)

Ms. Rosalind Smith, Trustee, (rsmith@norvelltownship.com)

Ms. Pamela Johnson, Trustee, (pjohnson@norvelltownship.com)

From: Patrick W. Raftery

Date: July 15, 2015

Re: Beech Road Culvert Repair

Please accept this letter as my formal request to repair the Beech Road culvert. As I'm sure you are aware, sometime in March 2014, the Beech Road culvert collapsed during routine road maintenance by the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT). For many years prior to the collapse, the JCDOT performed numerous road repairs by poring cold path/asphalt into the sinkholes that appeared over the culvert. The poor condition of the culvert has been known by the JCDOT for many years. It is very frustrating to the residents of the area to know that the JCDOT knew of the poor condition of the culvert and did nothing to make permanent repairs before a complete failure occurred.

It has now been 16 months that Beech Road has been closed. This has created a large inconvenience to the area residents. More importantly than the inconvenience is the fact that area residents have been limited to only one access for emergency first responders all this time. Be it for medical ambulance service or fire response, the area is limited to one access point creating the possibility of increased emergency response time. Additionally, the area is heavily wooded allowing

for the large potential of a road closure due to fallen trees. Last summer, a tree fell during a storm blocking Beech Road and the only access to my home. Two points of access to this area is a must for public safety. I would think, due to the excessive delay in repairing Beech Road, that Norvell Township and Jackson County would be concerned with the large liability it carries in the event that emergency responders experience delays and or the inability to reach their residents as described above. I acknowledge that the Mud Lake Association may have slowed the repair by exploring the possibility of raising the culvert invert elevation. However, that issue had been put to rest and the culvert repair now lies within Norvell Township Board hands.

It is my understanding that all the needed permits have been acquired and JCDOT has received competitive bids to complete this project and the last hurdle lies with you to appropriate the funding for this critical repair. Our neighborhood has lived with this public safety issue and inconvenience long enough.

Please include this correspondence as part of the August 12, 2015 agenda. Your favorable consideration is appreciated.

Adelia Hammond
11833 Beech Road
Brooklyn MI 4230
(517) 592-5701

Norvell Township Board,
Mr. Erick Johnson, Supervisor
Ms Anne Hagadorn, Clerk
Ms Deserre Sauers, Treasurer
Ms Rosalind Smith, Trustee
Ms. Pamela Johnson, Trustee

106 E. Commercial Street
P.O, Box 188
Norvell MI 49263
(517) 536-6110

July 25, 2015Re: Beech Road Culvert Repair

Thank you for this opportunity for me to express my viewpoint on the replacement of the Beech Road Culvert. I really only have one point. I will try to make it as quickly as I can.

I have little interest in whether the Beech Road Culvert gets repaired or replaced. The culvert was a convenience, no more no less. There are points of view that are urging the repair of the Beech Road Culvert as "public safety" and "an inconvenience" to have only one access point to their property. I do not see how either of these views should affect this Board's decision. All cul-de-sac's and dead end roads face both these challenges successfully.

When I moved into the residence at 11833 Beech Road in 1984, Beech Road was a county road, maintained by Jackson County. For thirty years repairs and improvements on Beech Road were the responsibility of the county. Residence were not consulted about the extent or manner of such repairs, nor were we asked to pay more when the road needed extensive repairs. I am specifically thinking of the rebuilding of the road bed after rain washed it out by the "S" curves after heavy rainfall (I believe in 2006.) How is that repair/improvement "routine maintenance" and replacing a failed culvert not?

But the question before this Board, at this time, is a "special assessment" to pay for this "routine maintenance." If a "special assessment" is used to repair this public road, who, specifically will be assessed? Certainly taxing all of Norvell Township is politically unfeasible. Does that leave us with the proposition of taxing just property owners on Beech Road? I know that many of my neighbors are retired or otherwise living on fixed incomes. I know that any additional strain on my income will produce a fiscal hardship. I know that, in the end, my opinion is that leaving the culvert unrepaired is a wiser decision than putting additional fiscal demands on financially strapped constituents.

Thank you for your consideration,