**TOWN OF BURKE**

**TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

5365 Reiner Rd., Madison WI 53718

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Chairman Viney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. It was determined a quorum was present and the meeting was properly posted. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance: Supervisors Jeff Stieren, Steve Berg, Chris Truitt and Lisa Rubrich. Staff in attendance: Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer PJ Lentz, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Elissa Friedl, Town Engineer Anne Anderson. Others in attendance: Richard, Ken and Diane Dushack; Linda Dederich; Christy Ohlsson; Skip Kraiss; Ian Thurston; and Ruth Frank.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Public hearing regarding proposed special assessments on Reiner Road**

Town Engineer Anne Anderson gave a briefing on the Reiner Road reconstruction project. The project will extend from just north of the railroad tracks south to the Madison Crushing property. The purpose of the project is to repave, improve safety and restore and improve drainage to protect the new pavement. Reiner Road will remain two lanes but a left turn lane will be added at Nelson Road. The project is slated to begin later this month and be complete by late July/early August. Reiner Road will be down to one lane or be open to local traffic only during construction and there may be brief periods during culvert replacement that the full closure will occur. Pursuant to State of WI Statutes, certain costs will be assessed to property owners.

Administrator PJ Lentz referenced the handout detailing assessment estimates and noted this is the maximum possible assessment. Options will be available to pay in lump sum or have the cost stretched over a number of years as an assessment on the property tax bill.

Ken Dushack appeared on behalf of his parents, Richard and Dorothy Dushack, 5182 Reiner Road to oppose the assessment. Mr. Dushack stated his parents built the home around 1960 and have never had drainage problems. He added the cost of the project is a hardship for his parents on a fixed income and does not provide a benefit for them. He indicated there are two driveways serving the property, one of which does not currently have a culvert. Sup. Truitt stated that the Town ordinance requires culverts. Anne Anderson stated that design standards have changed over time and the Town needs to restore proper drainage and functioning for all.

Ian Thurston, 2801 Reiner Road appeared and opposes the project as currently laid out and questioned whether the Town followed the statutory process for levying assessments. Thurston’s property is in the City of Madison and part of the property has been taken via eminent domain for future right-of-way. He has requested the City allow a turnaround driveway to avoid backing onto Reiner Road but the City won’t allow it. Anne Anderson stated the Town has followed the statutory process in levying the special assessments. She indicated Town staff worked with City of Madison staff while planning the project but right-of-way issues on this property did not come up initially. Administrator Lentz noted the City staffer reviewing the plans did not realize the plans needed further City approval so that is currently pending. Anderson noted improvements in front of Thurston’s property are on hold pending concurrence from City of Madison. Thurston stated he does not understand why the plans don’t move the access point for his property and that putting in a culvert does not improve functionality of his driveway or allow a turnaround to avoid backing out onto Reiner Road.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Sup. Truitt to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Approved: 7.19.2023

PJ Lentz, Administrator Clerk Treasurer