Town of Dayton Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022

4:00 P.M.

Present: Angie Mardino-Miller; Town Supervisor, Paul Luce; Deputy Town Supervisor, Jake Hansen-Ivett; Town Council, Don Bartlett; Town Council, Tom Chupa; Town Highway Superintendent, Rachelle Cook; Town Clerk, John Grennell; Town Attorney. *Absent: Town Council, Chris Rupp*

Call to Order: Town Supervisor Mardino-Miller called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Supervisor: Supervisor Mardino-Miller stated there are 2 reasons for this special meeting. 1 is to discuss Kellogg/Earl Hill regarding road safety/road sliding. 2 is for the board to consider changing the Highway Superintendent position to appointed instead of elected.

Supervisor Mardino-Miller asked who besides John Grennell; Town Attorney, Paul Luce; Deputy Town Supervisor, and herself, went to see the condition of Kellogg/Earl Hill prior to the meeting. Councilman Don Bartlett stated that he has also seen the condition of the road.

Supervisor Mardino-Miller went on to say that Kellogg/Earl Hill is sliding, making Kellogg Hill unsafe. Catt. County Highway Dept. was working on Meyers Corners Rd approximately June 10th-15th directly below Kellogg/Earl Hill where they cut down ¾ of the trees on the bank, they took at least half the bank away, and they claimed to have dug a ditch.

The hill began to slide almost immediately according to Highway Superintendent Chupa. Chupa went on to say that the County Supervisor Scott, promised to fix the problem and Chupa also stated that he had several conversations with Scott regarding fixing the hill. In addition, Chupa stated that the County brought multiple loads of milling to fix Kellogg/Earl Hill and that has already began to slide because “that hill needs to be fixed from the bottom up”, Chupa said. In addition to millings, Catt. County attempted to stop the hill from falling by putting riff raff rock on the side of that hill more than half way up, however the hill continues to slide daily. The millings already have major cracks all the way down through.

Highway Superintendent Chupa went on to say he was called to a meeting at Catt. County involving Kathleen Ellis; Catt. County Commissioner, William Fox; P.E. Director, Kimberly Merrill; Secretary to the Commissioner along with several other people from the County. Chupa said he thought he was going to a meeting to be told how the County was going to correct the problem they caused so that Kellogg/Earl Hill stops falling, instead the first remark that was made at that meeting was from Commissioner Kathleen Ellis who looked at Chupa and asked “How are you going to fix Earl Hill?” Chupa went on to say that he told Commissioner Kathleen Ellis along with everyone at that meeting that it is not his job to go on the County Road and fix the problem the County caused.

Town Attorney Grennell said he will make calls to figure out the Town’s next steps regarding the Kellogg/Earl Hill issue. Deputy Town Supervisor Luce asked if there are state mediators to go between the County and the Town.

Supervisor Mardino-Miller asked the board to consider a resolution to change the Highway Superintendent job from elected to appointed. Mardino-Miller went on to explain she believes it’s in the best interest of the taxpayers if the highway superintendent has to answer up to the board and the taxpayers for their actions directly rather than an elected position where an elected position doesn’t require answers to the board.

Time left for questions and answers from the board to the Town Attorney and the Town Supervisor. Thereafter, Town Clerk Cook read to the Board, the new Resolution expressing the Town of Dayton’s desire to eliminate the elected position of Highway Superintendent and replace it with an appointed position of Highway Superintendent. A motion to vote to pass the resolution was made by Deputy Town Supervisor Luce and second by Councilman Hansen-Ivett. All Aye – Motion carried. Roll Call vote taken. Deputy Town Supervisor Luce-yes, Councilman Hansen-Ivett-yes, Councilman Bartlett-yes, Town Supervisor Miller-yes.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deputy Town Supervisor Luce and second by Councilman Bartlett at 4:37 p.m. All Aye- Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 10th, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachelle Cook

Town of Dayton Town Clerk