

<<<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING 05/23/07>>>

Brian Randles, Chair, called the Special Meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting is for citizens to review the Kauffman Road Rehabilitation Project Plans and for a representative from the Fairfield County Engineer's Office to explain the project and answer citizens' questions concerning the project.

Members present were Trustees Randles, David Petty, Joseph Smith, and Fiscal Officer Carol Moore. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board and B/Z Administrator; Randy Solt, Road Supervisor and several interested citizens. Also present was Jeff Baird from the Fairfield County Engineer's Office.

Randles asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing for a Moment of Silence in honor of our troops serving in the Military throughout the world.

INTRODUCTION OF COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE:

Randles referred to the letter that had been sent to residents inviting them to this informational session on. He said this is phase one of a two-phased project on Kauffman Road. Smith added that this phase one of the project begins at the township line and extends to Brandt Road. Next, Randles introduced Jeff Baird, Deputy of Fairfield County Engineers Office, who would explain the project.

Jeff Baird who is Deputy of Fairfield County Engineers Office explained the project which will widen the road to 18 ft. with a four foot grading/berm. He said ditches are an important part of the project for drainage to keep the base of the road dry to prevent deterioration. Culvert pipes will be replaced as needed. There will be some ditches where there are not ditches now. He presented the plans that show the project phases. Plans will be available for viewing at the county engineer's office on Fair Avenue and a copy will be at the township offices. Baird entertained questions from the audience and referred to individual property owners' concerns by explaining the sections of the plan that pertain to their property.

Baird said there is a 60 foot right-of-way where the work will take place; 30 feet from the center of the road on each side. A driveway at Bartlett Drive will be moved. The alignment is at the center of the road. Where there is a steep embankment in places there will be cuts made. The project is funded by a \$526,132 state grant and \$176,314 Local Revenues. One resident is concerned about a new driveway that was recently installed. Baird said an apron will be installed on most of the driveways with no realignment. Trees in right of way will be removed. Randles stated he thinks their property values will escalate due to the improvement of the road. A resident expressed concern that it will make his lot smaller and he wondered if his lot would be in compliance with zoning. Cyphert stated the zoning will not be affected. Smith said the project bidding will start in July. Baird said he is responsible for bidding the project out and anticipates that to be done this year. Mail delivery will not be affected.

Discussion regarding the history of naming roads in the area. Baird said the only way to change the name of the road is to have it approved by the County Commissioners. Smith said changing the name of a road is not difficult and requires a petition be presented to the county commissioners. Smith said official notification of the grant will not come until July so work cannot begin until July. He said a lot of trees have to be cut and a lot of utilities have to be moved to prepare for the roadwork. Baird said until work agreements are signed, he cannot bid out the work. He said if everything goes real smooth, he can bid it out and do the project this year. It will be late this summer/fall or, if the extra steps needed take more time, the actual road construction will not begin until next year.

Baird said the trees that will be cut down can be given to the residents. If the residents don't want the wood, it will be hauled away by the county. Discussion of why trees must be removed. Smith said trees keep sun off in winter and snow and ice don't melt. Baird said shade is hard on asphalt because it keeps the road from drying and causes it to deteriorate. The bridge will have guard rail added. Property owners will be asked to sign a consent form for work in right of way. A resident is concerned about traffic speeding when the road is improved. Baird said widening the road will make it safer. He said studies have shown this to be true.

Baird said work agreements from the residents in the work area will be obtained by Bloom Township trustees. Randles suggested having the county handle it. Baird said the county does not have the resources at this time to do that but he will inquire with the county engineer. Smith said the trustees will personally visit the residents for their signatures. Baird will ask Lockwood and Lanier Engineers if they would be interested in obtaining the signatures on behalf of the township and what the charge would be.

The meeting adjourned.

Brian E. Randles
Chair

Carol J. Moore
Fiscal Officer