

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2007-05 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole March 13, 2007, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST. Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: Klaus Alberts District #1  
Lyle Tjosaas District #2  
David Erickson District #3  
Don Gray District #4  
David Hanson District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: David McKnight County Administrator  
Becky Lubahn Deputy County Clerk  
Guy Kohlhofer County Engineer

The County Engineer met with the Board to further discuss a request to close the CSAH 11 and TH 57 intersection.

Request to Close  
CSAH 11 and TH 57  
Intersection  
Discussion

At the last Board meeting a topic of discussion was MnDOT's request and funding to close the CSAH 11 and TH 57 intersection. The request was to move the County Highway Safety Funds Dodge County was awarded for CSAH 24 and TH 57 to the closing of the CSAH 11 intersection and TH 57 intersection.

Mr. Kohlhofer reported that the subject was discussed at the February 27, 2007 Board meeting and residents affected by the change were available for comment. Mr. McCool and Mr. Hutton were in favor of closing the road but were concerned about destroying established oak trees in the area. Discussion among Board members raised the question of whether it was an option to reconstruct the intersection to a proper 90 degree angle as opposed to closure. Commissioners requested that a representative from Mantorville Township be present for comments. It was also noted that commissioner Klaus Alberts who represents the Mantorville Township district was not present at the last meeting to provide input on the request and it was the consensus of the group to postpone any decision on the request until all Board members were present and additional information could be obtained.

The County Engineer stated that the Highway Department checked with MnDOT's Traffic Engineer and their request is to close, not modify, the intersection.

Request to Close  
CSAH 11 and TH 57  
Intersection  
Discussion -  
Continued

Mr. Kohlhofer informed the Board that in order to receive the available Safety Funds and complete the project in coordination with this years work on TH 57 it is necessary to take action on this matter at this time. The County Engineer stated that funding applications must be changed and plans approved by April 1, 2007.

The County Engineer reminded the Board that their options are to close the road with the funding the state will provide, leave the road as is, or install a 90 degree right angle turn onto TH 57 at they county's expense.

Commissioner Gray questioned whether or not the state would allow the county to install a 90 degree right angle turn.

Mr. Kohlhofer was unsure if the state would allow this type of modification, but he was willing to present the request to the state for consideration.

County Administrator David McKnight wanted to know what Mantorville Township's reaction was to the request to close CSAH 11.

The County Engineer stated that they have concerns regarding ease of access for the citizens that need to visit their facility.

Commissioner Alberts voiced his opinion that he believes Dodge County should put in a 90 degree right angle turn.

Mr. and Mrs. Schleeter and Brian McCool, property owners affected by the proposed changed were available to comment.

Commissioner Erickson questioned what the townships reaction was to the possibility of turning back this section of road to the township.

Mr. Kohlhofer stated that the township is aware of the turn back issue.

Brian McCool reiterated his concerns with who maintains the road if turned back to the township.

The County Engineer informed those present that the road, if closed, would be blacktopped and that it would be the townships responsibility to maintain the road.

Commissioner Alberts stated that he recommends that the road be changed to a 90 degree right angle turn.

Mr. McCool informed the Board that he was not in favor of seeing an intersection placed too close to his home.

Commissioner Alberts informed the County Engineer that he wanted him to recommend to the state the 90 degree angle change and see if they would approve it.

Commissioner Erickson questioned if there was a lot of traffic on this stretch of road.

Mr. McCool informed Mr. Erickson that there is a lot of traffic on this road on a daily basis.

Mrs. Schleeter stated that she feels people are more careful when they use this intersection because they know it is an unusual intersection.

Commissioner Erickson questioned if the intersection would be wide enough.

The County Engineer stated that it depends on what you are driving.

Mr. McCool commented that he understands the states thinking on the safety issue.

Commissioner Hanson voiced his opinion that the north bound traffic is not a problem, it is the south bound traffic that is a concern.

Mr. Kohlhofer repeated that the Board can leave the road as is or that the road can be closed as suggested by the state and the change would be funded by the state. The County Engineer also noted that the county would not get a right turn lane on TH 57 if we do not close the intersection.

Commissioner Erickson commented that Dodge County could request a turn lane on TH 57 when this road is reconstructed but we would be responsible for the cost of the turn lane.

It was Commissioner Alberts' opinion that if the state is not willing to go along with the Board's recommendation of a right angle turn then the Board should leave CSAH 11 as it is.

Mr. Kohlhofer expressed concern with the possibility of an accident at this intersection some time down the road and the need to explain the county's reason for not closing the intersection as recommended by the state when they had an opportunity to and had the funding available to close the road.

Commissioner Tjosaas commented that between having a handy road and a safe road, he preferred a safe road.

Mr. McCool stated that it may become a liability issue down the road if the road is not closed and something happens.

The County Engineer discussed the possibility of keeping CSAH 11 as a county state aid road.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know if the intersection could be widened.

Mr. Kohlhofer stated that he believes the state would never let us widen the intersection, and that it would probably cost us another \$200,000 to change the road if the state approved the change. The County Engineer reported that the state would not likely fund the change recommended by the Board.

Mr. McCool informed the Board that he is concerned with additional traffic near his driveway with the suggested change.

The County Engineer reminded the Board that the plans need to be done and signed by April 1, 2007.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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**DON GRAY**  
**CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

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**BECKY LUBAHN**  
**DEPUTY CLERK**

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**DATED:**