

NININGER PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
June 3, 2024

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bremer, chair; Steve Boetcher, Mary Dalaska, secretary; Gary Rotty, Ted Wagner

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Bauer, Karen Bremer, Bob Rotty

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Bremer at 8 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED/APPROVED: Chair Bremer called for review of the minutes from the May 6, 2024, meeting. **Motion:** Ted Wagner made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Gary Rotty. **Member vote:** 5 Ayes; 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED

NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS:

- **NEW ENTRYWAY CONSTRUCTION:** Chair Bremer confirmed construction of the new township hall entryway will be starting soon. The new entryway will reduce winter snow and ice issues at the entrance of the hall.
- **RUMORS OF ANNEXATION:** Inaccurate information regarding the City of Hastings annexing portions of Nininger Township was printed in the Hastings Journal. Chair Bremer and Township Board Chair Bob Rotty met with city officials and confirmed there are no plans for annexation by the City at this time.
- **INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR FURLONG TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION:** Mark Schoenfelder, Nininger Township engineer, and many residents of Furlong Trail were present. Mr. Schoenfelder presented three options for reconstructing Furlong Trail. **Option A:** milling the asphalt and converting the road to gravel. **Option B:** rehabilitate the existing bituminous roadway, add new Class 5 as needed, and place 3-1/2-inch bituminous overlay. **Option C:** reclaim existing pavement, add three inches Class 5 and 3-1/2 inches bituminous overlay, flatten grade to Highway 55 (west end). An **optional add-on** was presented that would include regrading the intersection of Pine Bend Trail and Highway 55 and paving Pine Bend Trail between Highway 55 and Furlong Trail. **OPEN DISCUSSION:** An open discussion was conducted to gather input and take questions from residents. Nearly all residents did not support Option A as they felt it may reduce home values. **Most residents favored Option B** but were concerned about traffic undermining the current road substrate and shortening the 20-year expected life of the road if substrate remains the same. The engineer stated that, with Option B, the substrate would be upgraded with Class 5 where needed and a thicker, 3-1/2-inch bituminous layer would be used. Some residents favored Option C for long-term durability. The optional add-on had little support. 2024 construction may still be possible at this point depending on bids and contractor availability. Residents were concerned about their cost of the project — amount of assessments, repay options, percent of cost-share with the Township. The township is proposing a 50/50 or 40/60 (township/resident) cost split. The township will cover up-front project costs and ask the township attorney to review Minn. Stat. 429 regarding assessment amounts and repayment

options. More information will be provided at a future meeting. Residents will receive notice of the meeting.

Chair Bremer stated the overall end goal is to have a road for residents only. To that end, after reconstruction, the road will be posted with weight limits to deter semis and other large trucks from using the road. The Planning Commission encourages residents to use one garbage hauler to further reduce heavy truck traffic. Additionally, in the short term, the Planning Commission and Township Board will work to close Pine Bend Trail between Furlong Trail and Fischer Avenue to discourage traffic in the area. The Township will notify the County of the closing, conduct necessary public meetings, work through any issues and install barricades/gates on the north side of the Furlong Trail/Pine Bend Trail intersection. The closed section will be operated by Dakota County. Other concerns raised by residents: ongoing access to the park/bike trail; how property value change will be determined; how assessments will be determined; and, how project will affect future property taxes.

Motion: Chair Bremer made a motion to recommend the Township Board begin the process of closing Pine Bend Trail between Furlong Trail and Fischer Avenue. Ted Wagner seconded the motion. **Member vote:** 5 ayes; 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

NOTE: Chair Bremer will check with the township attorney regarding timeline and steps for closing Pine Bend Trail.

Motion: Chair Bremer made a motion to recommend the Township Board pursue Option B and approve raising access to Highway 55 at both Fischer Avenue and Pine Bend Trail — the Pine Bend Trail portion of the project paid by the township. Ted Wagner seconded the motion.

Member vote: 5 ayes; 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

Motion: Chair Bremer made a motion to recommend the Township Board receive new cost estimates from the township engineer — using Option B and add-on upgrade to raise access to Highway 55 at both Fischer Avenue and Pine Bend Trail — at their June 18, 2024, meeting. Mary Dalaska seconded the motion. **Member vote:** 5 ayes; 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

NOTE: Chair Bremer will check with the township attorney regarding assessment sharing and repayment options, Minn. Stat. 429 — home value increase vs. individual property assessment.

Motion: Chair Bremer made a motion to set a public hearing on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 8 p.m. to discuss closure of Pine Bend Trail from Furlong Trail to Fisher Avenue. Steve Boetcher seconded the motion. **Member vote:** 5 ayes; 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

NOTE: The township engineer will provide updated cost estimates to Mary Dalaska by Friday, June 7 to include in the notice of hearing. Mary Dalaska will meet with the township attorney to finalize notice before publishing. The July 1 Planning Commission meeting will be left open.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF DISCUSSION/INFORMATION:

- Next Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 7 p.m.
- Next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 1, 2024, at 8 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: **Motion:** Gary Rotty motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Steve Boetcher. **Member vote:** 5 Ayes; 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Dalaska, Planning Commission Secretary