

**TOWN of MAY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
OFFICIAL TOWN BOARD MINUTES  
NORELL AVENUE/COUNTY ROAD 3 PROJECT  
March 6, 2020**

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of May convened a meeting for the sole purpose of future road construction of Norell Avenue/County Road 3 on Friday, March 6, 2020 at the May Town Hall. Those present included: Board members Bill Voedisch and John Adams; Clerk/Treasurer Linda Tibbetts; Citizen Laurie Allmann; Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron; Washington County Engineers Kevin Peterson and Frank Ticknor. Adams called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Peterson reported, as the project manager, he wants to engage the public so the community has a say in the road's development. Ticknor is the project engineer. This project, the repaving of County Road 3/Norell Avenue (three miles between County Road 4 and County Road 7), is coming up on the Capital Improvement Plan for 2023. In 2015, the road had mill/overlay done.

Part of the funding for this project would come from state aid. Adams questioned how the amount of money is determined. Peterson responded that state the requirements to be a state aid road is to connect to other state aid roads. The county receives money from the state when roads are designated as state aid and amounts are determined by population and repair needs. Miron said there are different funding sources, such as funding and bonding.

Miron discussed the current public hearing process from the county which is looking at initiating a quarter cent sales tax in Washington County to create another funding source for the roads. This would provide property tax relief to citizens of the county. The tax specifically calls for Washington County to identify the roads and bridges where it would be spent. The additional money would be used for transportation and bridges. Overall, the county is reliant on property taxes to cover infrastructure needs.

Peterson said County Road 3/Norell gets on average 960 vehicles per day (County Road 4 is around 2,400) and there is not an expected explosion of traffic on this road. Peterson said he does not see doing major changes or structure of the road.

There are a few key areas of this road that draw concerns. First, the road cuts through Boot Lake and the road is sliding into the lake. Second, the pond near Mardaus' house at 15869 Norell is sucking the road down. Over the years, the county has added rock to shore up the incline. This section will need geotechnical analysis performed to find a solution for the slide. Regarding the railroad crossing to the north, the county wants to find a way to reduce the hill and reduce safety concerns.

Washington County's process wants to be open and transparent for public and local government input and consideration. They are in the process of hiring an engineering consultant and a recent RFP has resulted in 10 proposals.

The first goal in this process is to hold an open house with May residents and commuters to input can be received regarding the preliminary project. This would likely occur in late 2020 at the Town Hall. From this meeting, information will be gathered and digested.

If the town would like a bike path along the road or any specific upgrades, they would be assessed the costs. Norell is part of the linear park plan as a scenic roadway.

Allmann said she wished the public would have been notified before County Road 3/Norell was designated a state aid highway. Her concern is any specifications that is required for state aid highway would surpass the design plans. Peterson said there is some room to move on specifications on construction and we will have "wobble room" when we work through the design. Ticknor said the design standards is based off of volume of traffic. He noted a 66 foot right of way.

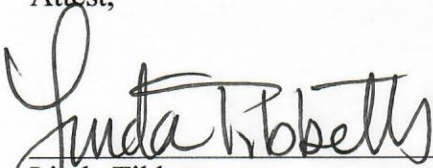
Allmann said she was a DNR/conservation writer and has a long history of environmental work locally. She wanted to stress to the engineer and project manager, as well as the commissioner how rare species of animals, reptiles and native plant are located along the roadway, including a state threatened species of turtle.

Further, Allmann said these places are critical habitats for rare species. This is also part of recognized areas by county and state as there is a conservation corridor that starts at Norell and creates a solid link of property from Wilder, Warner, Dunrovin, and the Science Museum to the St. Croix River. Also, this road intersects many water bodies. She is hyper aware of how rare the resources are along this roadway. She hopes the county with cross-purposes with itself as she doesn't want to see the area degraded.

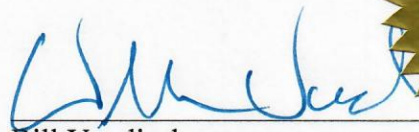
As an engineer, Peterson is not familiar with the specifics of this corridor however, he was appreciative of the input from Allmann. This is key information that will be useful in the planning stages. The town board will be asked to provide formal resolutions of support at the end of preliminary findings.

Adams moved, seconded by Voedisch, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Attest,

  
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Linda Tibbetts  
Clerk/Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Bill Voedisch  
Board Chair

