

VILLAGE OF DRESSER
PUBLIC WELFARE/ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 27, 2013
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Rick Flandrena called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Roll Call: Kristi Scheet, Jim Thanig, and Rick Flandrena. Darron Nelson Absent. Also present Jodi A. Gilbert/Clerk and Steve Palmer, Town of St Croix Falls. This meeting was posted that a majority of the board members could be present for this meeting. No other public or press was in attendance.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss Summit Road. Flandrena stated Palmer wanted to join us to discuss some of the concerns and ideas he has in regards to Summit Road. Why don't you give a quick history since we weren't around when this all happened. Palmer thanked the committee for taking the time to meet with him. I am the Town of St Croix Falls Chairman and one of the things we have been doing is updating all of our contracts with other municipalities. We have gotten through just about all of them and now we are looking at the Summit Road contract and I have been reviewing the history on this road. Originally some people had requested closing the road. The Village of Dresser I believe tried to close the road in 1994. Currently our primary purpose is not to close the road, but it is time for us to bring the road up to town road standards and from looking at the area that will not happen because of the large amount of trap rock on each side of the road. In the Town of St Croix Falls we have also listed the top 10 dangerous road ditches and that list includes this area. Flandrena stated I saw a few big boulders when I was out there. Palmer stated the cost to bring the road up to standards would not be feasible. Since 1994 the area has changed quite a bit. Dresser Trap Rock the business keeps buying up land having a reverse effect on the area when it comes to growth. I believe some of the other land owners agree with us and I really don't want to make any assumptions on what their future plans might be for their land. So then going back to the history in 1994 the Village of Dresser you can see on page 6/22 had the intent to close the road and at that time there were good reasons both ways. A number of things have changed. 1. The Town of St Croix Fall's board was opposed to it in the past and that's why they took on the maintenance agreement. Now the town board is in favor of closing it and they would support the Village of Dresser. 2. The Fire Department had concerns at that time and now the fire chief is on our board and they are ok with it. 3. Trap Rock now owns a lot more of the land. When you read the old minutes there were a lot of things discussed and ultimately it came down to the town and the village signing an agreement. I think it is around \$1,000 a year that Dresser pays the Township. The current contract automatically renews every year see page 2 of 22. Palmer stated in 2004 the contract was extended again and we appreciate you taking the time to talk about this before the renewal date. I don't know if I have much more to say right now. Flandrena stated so you would like to renegotiate the contract or close the road. Palmer stated if we renegotiate this is not a dollar issue. Flandrena stated as far as a legal opinion he said no. I promised you we would look into it and Scheet will still be here after the election. Unfortunately you will have to meet again. We do appreciate you talking about it before the renewal date. It is better to talk about it ahead of time. Scheet asked looking at the map are all of the dots residents. In the past I believe a lot of the residents along the road were upset from being cut off. Palmer stated looking at the map showing the property that Dresser Trap Rock owns in yellow and this is the road. This shows the number of residents, but we would have to look at it closer. Scheet stated so my question now is if we say close it what do all of these residents want. Palmer stated you would have an area to put in a cul de sac. This is where things get complicated, because you now bring in the Town of Osceola. Flandrena stated I don't believe Doug Schmidt is in favor of this. But

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that being said we still have our agreement with the Town of Osceola where we maintain part and they maintain another stretch for us Palmer stated. Palmer stated I have looked at this with Doug and we are leaving those agreements in place. Flandrena stated we should find out if the DOT has any traffic studies on this. That might give us some idea on how much traffic goes through there. Also we need to find out how much the Fire Departments and Ambulance Services use that section of road. If all of that comes back we will have to talk to all the people before a public hearing would be set. I guess we would also need to get Doug Schmidt involved in it. Palmer stated I will call Schmidt and mention we are talking. Flandrena stated we will need to get a lot more information. Palmer stated that is why we are starting now – the simple agreements we have took 3-4 months. Scheet asked what is the down size in regards to cost. Flandrena jumped in between the liability and upgrading the road those are the two biggest concerns. Scheet stated there are liabilities all over the place. This could still be a liability after the road was closed. Palmer stated my view point is the liability and I do understand anything can be a liability. It is an unusual area. There was an accident out there prior to 1994. From what I heard they sued the Town of SCF and the accident actually happened in the Village of Dresser. The judge eventually did throw the whole case out. Flandrena stated when we talk to the DOT they would have an accident record on that. Polk County may have some records also. Palmer stated when this was first looked at the SCF Fire Department was located down on Main Street. They are now located up on the hill. The Fire Department does have alternate routes. Flandrena stated Scheet is on the fire board and Kevin can probably give some input on that. In regards to the Ambulance we would need to survey our Ambulance service and also the St Croix Falls ambulance. There is quite a bit more information to get. Flandrena continued we said that we would listen to this and then turn it over to the new administration with suggestions. This is not going to happen overnight. Palmer stated I appreciate you looking at this. Scheet stated it would be nice to have a current list of residents. We would want them to be aware of this. There is a list in the packet, but it has probably changed since then. Flandrena stated I don't want to get too far on this since I can't complete it. This will be turned over to the new administration. There will have to be more board meetings. I am sure Beseler will invite you also. Flandrena continued we will have this in the minutes and it will be on the monthly meeting agenda on Monday. We will serve it up for the new administration with these suggestions and leave it in his hands. You will just have to communicate with him. Flandrena stated in the meantime I will make a few phone calls to the Fire Department and Ambulance service so they have some time to look into it. Also I will let Tim our attorney look into the agreement on how that could be tweaked. Palmer stated I believe the contract is pretty straight forward. Flandrena continued tell you what we will get looking into it and have it on the agenda for April 1st and after that leave it in Scheet's hands. Palmer stated I appreciate you looking into it. Flandrena stated I have already addressed Beseler on this already. Thank you for coming.

Motion Flandrena/Scheet to adjourn. All in Favor. 6:00 PM. Motion Carried.

Jodi A. Gilbert - Clerk/Treasurer

These minutes have not been approved.