

TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Town of Erin Prairie October 17, 2022 Board Meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Chairman John Van Dyk. Present were John Van Dyk, Mike Monteith, and Dennis Mitchell (arrived about 7:45p.m.)

A motion was made by Mike to accept the agenda as presented and to approve the September meeting minutes as written. John seconded and passed both motions.

It was reported there is \$171,124.35 in our Money Market and Checking accounts. \$36,895.67 are ARPA Funds to be used for Broadband so the available funds equal \$134,228.68. A motion was made by Mike to approve the treasurer's report. John seconded and passed the motion.

The bills were presented and discussed. After discussion Mike moved to pay the bills as presented. Dennis seconded the motion which passed by affirmative vote.

Joel Allen presented information about the cost to complete three road projects in our township that the board feels need to be completed in the next few years. The three projects are to reconstruct/widen/resurface the following three roads:

- 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue from STH 63 to 200<sup>th</sup> Street
- 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 200<sup>th</sup> Street to 190<sup>th</sup> Street
- 160<sup>th</sup> Street from 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Joel also included the estimated cost to complete the projects without widening the roads.

Please see the attached information. It was mentioned that there is approximately \$17,000.0 in Local Road Improvement Project funds that we will receive in 2023 to use for completion of one of these projects. Also noted was that equipment costs for the County are set by the state. Expenses have risen this year. One example is chip sealing that increased from \$15,000 per mile to \$17,000 per mile.

Scott Dewitt came forward with a question about accessing his property located in Jewitt (02-2003-50-000). He does not have direct access but the residents who have homes between the County Rd. T and his property have agreed to allow Scott to use their driveway to access his property. The Board had discussed this in 2015 so the information and correspondence from then was shared with Scott. The railroad and St. Croix County Highway Department agreed if needed a road could be built running parallel to the railroad track.

Chris Milliron, Robin Haffner, Rod and Julie Haffner were present to discuss the relationship between the townships and city regarding the New Richmond Fire Department that serves Erin Prairie Township. Problems with the fire department have been noted. How do the townships help resolve the problems that exist? John is on the Fire Department Board and has been trying to ask the tough questions and help resolve the issues. The suggestion was made that possibly the municipality representatives that are on the Fire Department Board could meet and try to come up with a plan to help change and improve the situation.

Robin Haffner asked the Board if the township would take over 156<sup>th</sup> St. and have the County pave it if he and the residents residing on the road would provide the funding for the paving? The Board will discuss and consider this option.

Brett Budrow from the Community Development-Planning and Land Information Administration asked the township to review and approve placing signs in the township for the proposed bike route. The signed bike route they are requesting approval for travels across Erin Prairie Township on 160<sup>th</sup>

Avenue. This provides a direct route from 140<sup>th</sup> St. in Richmond Township and continues across Hwy. 63 into Emerald Township. After review and discussion Dennis moved to approve placing signs on 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. for the bike route. Mike seconded the motion, which passed by affirmative vote.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget for 2023. Because the cost to complete one of the road projects that the township needs to complete is approximately \$270,000.00 the board can see that the levy we are allowed will not be enough to pay for the project. The township will be approximately \$80,000.00 short of what is needed. Dennis made a motion to adopt a resolution to increase the 2021 levy (payable 2022) which was \$172,613 by 45%. This would set the 2022 (payable 2023) township levy at \$250,289.00. Mike seconded the motion, which passed by affirmative vote. This levy increase would mean a 45% increase in resident's taxes for the township's portion only, not the entire tax amount. For example, a residence with the assessed value of approximately \$307,000 in 2021 had a tax bill of \$605.00 for the township portion only. The 45% levy increase would mean the township portion for this parcel would increase by \$272.25, raising the tax payment for the township portion to \$877.25.

A meeting for township residents to comment and vote on the levy increase and resolution will be held Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00p.m. The budget hearing to approve the budget will immediately follow the Resolution meeting and the regular board meeting will follow the budget hearing.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn at 9:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Mitchell, Clerk/Treasurer





## Highway Department

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October 17, 2022

**TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE  
ANALYSIS OF FUTURE IMPROVEMENT ROAD PROJECTS  
October 2022**

Prepared by:

Joel Allen, Patrol Superintendent

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

At the request of the Town, below is a cost estimate with a couple different options for 2 miles of reconstruction on 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and one mile of reconstruction of 1 mile of 160<sup>th</sup> Street.

The first option will be a standard reconstruct, these roads will require shoulder widening and/or reconstruction in addition to wider pavement surfaces. The second option will be a modified reconstruct without widening but base improvements and matching the existing pavement of 20 feet. Lastly the third option will be just to replace the pulverized section of road with hot-mix asphalt and no reconstruction.

### **B. RECONSTRUCT/WIDEN/RESURFACE PROJECTS**

#### **1) 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue from STH 63 to 200<sup>th</sup> Street**

Local Road

Existing widths: 19-20' pavement, 1-2' shoulders, 24' top width

Functionally obsolete due to narrow width and failing asphalt surface

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Widen the road to accommodate 22' of new HMA, add Base one, add 2" of limestone base, Pulverize, replace culvert by Frog Pond, and shoulder when completed.

PROPOSED WIDTHS: 22' wide paved, 2' gravel shoulders, 26' total top width.

ESTIMATED COST: Widening/Culvert/Base	\$90,000
Paving	<u>\$185,000</u>
TOTAL	\$275,000+/-

\*\* Without widening, just pulverize the rest of the road, add base and pave at existing width cost would go down to \$220,000+/-.

\*\* To just pave the existing pulverized road with no improvements cost would reduce to \$99,000+/-.

## **2) 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 200<sup>th</sup> Street to 190<sup>th</sup> Street**

Local Road

Existing widths: 19-20' pavement, 1-2' shoulders, 24' top width

Functionally obsolete due to narrow width and failing asphalt surface

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Widen the road to accommodate 22' of new HMA, add Base one, add 2" of limestone base, Pulverize, and shoulder when completed.

PROPOSED WIDTHS: 22' wide paved, 2' gravel shoulders, 26' total top width.

ESTIMATED COST: Widening/Base	\$75,000
Paving	<u>\$185,000</u>

TOTAL	\$260,000+/-
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\*\* Without widening, just pulverize the rest of the road, add base and pave at existing width cost would go down to \$205,000+/-.

\*\* To just pave the existing pulverized road with no improvements cost would reduce to \$70,000+/-.

## **3) 160<sup>th</sup> Street from 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Local Road

Existing widths: 19-20' pavement, 1-2' shoulders, 24' top width

Functionally obsolete due to narrow width and failing asphalt surface

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Widen the road to accommodate 22' of new HMA, add Base one, add 2" of limestone base, Pulverize, and shoulder when completed.

PROPOSED WIDTHS: 22' wide paved, 2' gravel shoulders, 26' total top width.

ESTIMATED COST: Widening/Culverts/Base	\$85,000
Paving	<u>\$185,000</u>

TOTAL	\$270,000+/-
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\*\* Without widening, just pulverize the rest of the road, add base and pave at existing width cost would go down to \$215,000+/-.

\*\* To just pave the existing pulverized road with no improvements cost would reduce to \$96,000+/-.

#### **D. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Town of Erin has done a good job in the past trying to keep up with maintenance and construction, however, severe old age has necessitated the need for some major improvements on the roads identified in this report.

In summary, we are recommending the following Improvement Plan of Action for the Town of Erin Prairie road system.

Estimated costs are for budget purposes only and based on 2022 construction costs. Actual cost to the Town of Erin Prairie for work performed by St. Croix County would be on a time and material basis.

The final decisions with regards to prioritizing the final and scheduling projects rests with the Town of Erin Prairie.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Allen, Patrol Superintendent