

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday May 21, 2015**

Board Chairman Ron Smith called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisor Allen Eld; Clerk Candace Kral; Mark Jacobs, Aitkin County Land Department; Brian Napstad, County Commissioner; Bob Moore, DNR; Natalie King, Tom Peterson and Abby Moore, Catholic Youth Camp (CYC); and five Shamrock residents/property owners.

The purpose of this meeting was to work with the CYC representatives to alleviate past, present and future problems with the public accesses within the camp properties. Ron Smith introduced the attendees of the meeting to the public present. Ron Smith informed the people that the township is proposing to consolidate the dedicated to the public lots (public accesses) that are within/next to the boundaries of the CYC. The accesses being discussed are: Willets Landing 33'; Indian Point Road, 33' road and widens out for lake access and Portage Landing 16.5' with West Landing approximately 33'; totaled all together approximately 115', total may vary depending on how the DNR totals the Indian Point Road lakeshore footage.

Bob Moore explained the DNR's roll in the public access throughout the years and what its responsibility/involvement roll is today. Their goal is to keep the dedicated to the public lots for the public, that they have public value/interest. The local units of government have the control of such public areas. They encourage situations where there is no net loss to the public, such as in a land swap.

Mark Jacobs explained the history of deidciated to the public lots regarding the management of the said lots and the county's attempt to maintain public accesses for public use. Control of public lots/accesses goes to the lowest form of government that takes jurisdiction for said lots.

Tentative plans of the area were discussed. The township's plan is to combine the public assesses in one area, look at their options and then decide what would be in the public's best interest for this location. Natalie King does not understand why the township wants to put the accesses together if they do not have a definite plan for the area. She stated concern of the park area becoming a parking lot. She stated that the CYC would not agree to any property swap if the township's plans bring the public to utilize the area. Ron Smith and Allen Eld gave the history of the complaints the township has received over the years going back 15-20 years. Natalie requested dated material of any complaints the township may have had, doubting that there have been very many in the past 5-10 years. Ron stated that at the annual meeting, the voting residents requested that the township pursue the course of the public accesses within the camp's grounds. Natalie stated that they are not willing to trade/give up their camp property. She also stated that they are against any proposed project that the township suggests because of the traffic it may bring to the area and does not care about the public. The CYC has a survey and is unwilling to share it with the township, suggesting that the township can obtain their own survey of the public accesses.

Natalie informed the board that the CYC has taken on a two year plan. They were approached about a year ago about selling the camp by a private buyer. They have taken on a two year initiative to try to change and continue the camp. If there are building encroaching upon the public access areas they would not be totally opposed to removing a cabin or two because of their tentative plans. They may be taking down some buildings and moving some things around if use as a camp is continues. If the consolidation moves forward and the township starts to use the field as a parking lot and a public area is put in, it may destroy their camp. So if there are encroachments, they may be willing to take cabin(s) down at this point as it may be part of their greater plan if they decide to keep the camp. Natalie will not agree to anything that brings any public activity, they would like more private alternatives. It was stated

that many people do not use the public accesses or park in the area because they are intimidated by the staff of the camp. Natalie stated that people should feel intimidated, they should stay away. People are led to believe that the areas and road are not public. Natalie said that they do approach/greet anyone that comes through on the public road and asks them what and why they are there. She stated concern for the kids of the camp. It was stated that as a public individual on the public road they should not have to answer who they are and why they are there.

A resident stated concern of an eagles' nest in a tree that is on one of the access, if the tree was cut down.

Brain Napstad stated that the first step would be to do a survey to find out the actual location of the dedicated to public lands. The township has different possible uses/suggestions for uses of the area once they are combined. These suggested uses are possibly rejected uses due to the ground/shore line conditions and are all speculative since we do not know the exact location of the public assesses and the type of grounds/shore line that is there. He would like to tour the areas with the township so that at least the township can post the areas as public property to alleviate any misunderstandings between the public and the camp. John Lenvik gave the township permission to go onto his property if needed for this purpose.

Natalie accused the township of sending people to go through the camp to the public accesses, to cause an inconvenience for the camp.

Bob Moore stated that in the 30+ years that he has worked with many government entities, Shamrock Township has always been a government entity that has always had high values in trying to provide public opportunities, access to the lakes are one the said public opportunities. They really represent the public and tries to do what's best for the public. Natalie stated that she is not concerned with the public, she is representing a private property. She is not concerned if the public has access. She does not want any public there.

The township and county stated that it would be for the benefit of the camp's owners to have all of their property together rather than divided up by public accesses/roads. The property would be more valuable for resale. Natalie stated that increased value is not a benefit to anyone; no one gets the money, it goes into a fund so they do not care if they could make more money on it or not.

The township could get a survey and then applies to ConCon for payment of the survey.

Brian Napstad suggested that the township to survey the public access and walk the property to view the areas under discussion.

Again John Lenvik gave the township and county permission to go onto his property.

The board stated that due to people being chased off the public areas around the CYC for many years, people are now afraid of going to the area, again Natalie stated that she thought it was great that people were afraid to use the public areas located there, again stating that she does not care if the public has access to the public areas. The board stated that they understand that the camp's main concern is the safety of the campers (kids). Natalie wants to make sure that there isn't anything put in the area that would draw the public or a parking lot be put up in the field/park area situated by the CYC. She agreed that it would probably be beneficial to the CYC to have the consolidation performed.

Brain Napstad suggested for the camp to look at the swimming beach on Round Lake off of County Road 6 to get an idea how much public areas are used in the area. By doing this they can see that there never is a high volume of people using that area. There would probably be even less to an area located by the CYC because it is not on a main highway.

Natalie will not work with or deal with the township unless the township will give definite plans for the consolidated public accesses that she agrees to. She stated concern for her campers and anything that involves a parking lot and draws the public in, she will not agree to and stated again that she does not care about the public. If she agrees with the townships plans then maybe she will share their survey of the area so the township can save the cost of the survey. If the township makes it a nature preserve, nobody is going to use it, great, and then she will be okay with the consolidation. She wants to be guaranteed that no one will be parking on what is now the field, and wants to know exactly how much traffic will be brought to the area.

Ron Smith stated that there already is parking in the winter for 5 or 6 cars where the township plows. Brain suggested that he and the township goes to said public areas and possible consolidation area, walks the area before spending the money on the survey to see what can be done without making a parking lot in or by the park. Ron stated that the township has in other areas posted "No Parking" signs and could do so in this area if needed.

CYC's surveyor – Armstrong, Troseth, Skold and Rydeen Inc., 8501 Golden Valley Road, Suite 300, Minneapolis

The CYC and this meeting will be discussed at the Regular Board Meeting on June 11 and then Ron will contact Brian so that a walk through can be performed by the end of June.

Adjourn 2:13 pm

Candace Kral
Clerk

Ron Smith
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE JUNE 11, 2015 REGULAR BOARD MEETING