

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC HEARING - 508TH LANE SSD
Tuesday, January 16, 2025**

Chair Ron Flatten called the Public Hearing to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisor Tom Meyer; Supervisor Ernie Darlow; Supervisor Brock Hayes; Treasurer Jack Brula; Clerk Candace Kral; Troy Gilchrist, Town Law Center, and twelve residents in person and three via Zoom. Ron Flatten explained that the purpose of the hearing was to gather information and discuss the Subordinate Service District (SSD) Petition previously presented to the board for the proposed asphaltting of 508th Lane. He then turned the Public Hearing over to Troy Gilchrist, the township's attorney.

Mr. Gilchrist introduced himself, highlighting his experience and specialization in town law. He provided an overview of the process and steps involved in forming an SSD, explaining both the township's role and the responsibilities of the affected residents. He outlined that residents would be responsible for covering costs associated with engineering, attorney fees, the township's financing of the project through a bond, interest on loan payments over time, certain subgrade road improvements, and the asphaltting itself.

He emphasized that the township can only provide rough cost estimates, as exact costs cannot be determined until the project is completed. Mr. Gilchrist further explained that if the board decides to move forward with the requested SSD for road improvements, a resolution will be passed. This resolution will then be published and sent to district property owners, who will have the opportunity to challenge it through a "reverse referendum," requiring at least 25% of property owners to file a petition. If no reverse referendum is filed, the board may proceed with the project.

Ron Flatten informed the residents that the township follows a standardized road specification. The town board has collectively decided not to handle road acceptance or asphaltting requests on a case-by-case basis but instead to adhere strictly to these established standards. One key requirement is that any asphalt surface must have a 20-foot-wide top. Currently, approximately half of 508th Lane does not meet this requirement, with some sections narrowing to about 16 feet toward the end. To proceed with asphaltting, property owners would need to relinquish portions of their land to accommodate the required road width.

Residents asked questions, which were addressed by both the board and the attorney. It was stated that for some of the residents to dedicate property for the road would be a hardship as some of the properties are not very deep. One question raised was why the road could not simply be blacktopped at its current width. Ernie Darlow explained that a 20-foot-wide blacktop is essential not only for the benefit of residents but also for the township and the longevity of the pavement.

Troy stated that once the petition comes to the board, it is the board's responsibility to accept or deny. He also stated that the township can continue the hearing to allow the residents to talk to each other over the new developments.

The board and residents discussed possible engineering and water drainage.

Motion made by Ernie Darlow, seconded by Brock Hayes to continue the Public Hearing to February 11, 2025, at 4:00 pm at the Shamrock Townhall; motion passed.

Meeting was recessed at 5:38 pm.

February 11, 2025 – Continued Public Hearing 508th Lane SSD

Ron Flatten reconvened the Public Hearing – 508th Lane SSD at 4:00 pm February 11, 2024 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisor Tom Meyer; Supervisor Ernie Darlow; Supervisor Brock Hayes; Treasurer Jack Brula; Clerk Candace Kral and six residents in person; Supervisor Bruce Johnson, Troy Gilchrist, Town Law Center, and three property owners via Zoom.

Ron Flatten opened the floor to residents, asking if they had discussed the issues. Gary Hennen stated that when the petition was initiated, they were unaware of the full extent of the costs and that the project would involve more than simply laying blacktop over the existing gravel road. This new information, along with the additional costs, appears to be a concern for many property owners. It was also noted that the 20-foot finished surface requirement is an issue for some residents as well due to the residents needing to gift the property for the road and the trees that would need to be removed. Ron Flatten provided a brief recap of the first part of the hearing held on January 16. It was noted that even without a 20-foot top, the cost would be at least \$12,000 per property owner. If the Board adhered to the standard 20-foot width, the project’s costs and timeline would increase significantly due to the sensitive and culturally significant area and the associated risks. Given these factors, it is unlikely that the Board would deviate from the standard width for a blacktop surface. It was also emphasized that road specifications are in place to ensure that the township does not accept or improve a road to subpar standards.

After further discussion of the potential hardships faced by property owners and the Board's position that a blacktop road less than 20 feet wide would not be approved, the residents expressed their preference to discontinue the project. A motion was made by Bruce Johnson, seconded by Brock Hayes, to instruct town attorney Troy Gilchrist to prepare a resolution denying the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gilchrist will prepare the resolution for the board’s acceptance and signature at the next regular board meeting.

Motion made by Brock Hayes, seconded by Bruce Johnson, to adjourn the Public Hearing – 508th Lane SSD; motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing Adjourned 4:45 pm

Candace Kral
Clerk

Ron Flatten
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 13, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING