

Special Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - July 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Chairman, John Wesely. Others present were Supervisors, Pete Steen and Heidi Kroening, and Clerk, Scott Danelski. Absent Treasurer Ron Mossberg.

STURGEON ISLAND BRIDGE # R0726 :

Tom Wilson of Erickson Engineering was present to discuss the structural engineering report and letter of recommendation to the Windemere Town Board for the Sturgeon Island Bridge # R0726. Tom stated they completed the structural inspection of the bridge in April 2019 and the inspection showed the bridge in terrible repair. Erickson Engineering then provided their letter of recommendation on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 giving three options of either repairing or replacing the existing structure.

The options are as follows :

Alternative #1 (Rehabilitate the Existing Bridge Structure) – This alternative would keep the original aesthetics of the bridge, outlooks, height, width, entrance clearances, and have no crash-tested barrier railing. Alternative #1 would require a MnDOT State Aid Rules variance approval for the width and no crash barrier to be eligible for funds from the Town Bridge Account to cover costs in excess of the township's responsibility of \$20,000.00. Total cost for alternative #1 is \$290,000 (\$237,000.00 for the bridge and \$53,000.00 for the canopy/cover) of which the \$53,000.00 canopy/cover of the bridge is not funded at all by the Town Bridge Account. Please note the MnDOT Bridge Office policy typically recommends full replacement of a structure if rehabilitation costs exceed 65% of replacement costs. Eligible rehabilitation costs of alternative #1 are 76% of the costs to replace the structure.

Alternative #2 (Replace the Existing Bridge with a 48' Long / 20' Wide Treated Timber Panel-Lam Bridge) – This alternative would be in compliance of State Aid Rules for width (20') as well as the required TL-2 crash-tested timber rail barrier and would not require a variance by MnDOT. Total cost for alternative #2 is \$416,000.00 (\$313,000.00 for the bridge and \$103,000.00 for the canopy/cover) of which the \$103,000.00 canopy/cover of the bridge is not funded at all by the Town Bridge Account. Since alternative #2 falls under the Town Bridge Account eligibility, the total cost to Windemere Township would be \$20,000.00 to replace the existing structure.

Alternative #3 (Replace the Existing Bridge with a 48' Long / 14' Wide Treated Timber Panel-Lam Bridge) – This alternative would also have the required TL-2 crash-tested timber rail barrier, but would require a MnDOT State Aid Rules variance approval for width (14') to be eligible for funds from the Town Bridge Account to cover costs in excess of the township's responsibility of \$20,000.00. Total cost for alternative #3 is \$370,000 (\$280,000.00 for the bridge and \$98,000.00 for the canopy/cover) of which the \$98,000.00 canopy/cover of the bridge is not funded at all by the Town Bridge Account. Please note the MnDOT Bridge Office policy typically recommends full replacement of a structure if rehabilitation costs exceed 65% of replacement costs. Eligible rehabilitation costs of alternative #3 are 85% of the costs to replace the structure.

Tom stated that Erickson Engineering recommend pursuing alternative #2 to the Windemere Town Board. Residents were then allowed to ask questions and make public comments regarding the Sturgeon Island Bridge. Questions ranged from variance options, funding availability, width and height requirements, longevity of the bridge (repairing vs. replacing), how much time is available before action is needed to either repair or replace the structure, and could the structure be classified as a historical landmark and a funding from a legacy grant be an option.

**PUBLIC INPUT :**

Jude Stephens of 92806 Lake 12 Road Sturgeon Lake, MN was present and asked how the Lake Association intend to maintain the cover/canopy of the bridge.

Sherri Lahti of 39843 Hill Street Road Sturgeon Lake, MN was present requested that the Board team up with residents to pursue other alternative options vs. replacement of the existing structure prior to a decision being made.

Vern Anderson II of 88493 Sturgeon Island Road Sturgeon Lake, MN was present and thanked the Board for rescinding the motions made at the June 2019 meeting to replace the existing structure and allowing the residents a second opportunity to give public input regarding the Sturgeon Island Bridge.

The topic of the Sturgeon Island Bridge will be placed on the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 agenda to discuss the possibility of forming a Sturgeon Island Bridge Preservation Committee and filing an application with the national registry to declare the Sturgeon Island Bridge as a historical landmark.

Motion made by Steen, seconded by Kroening to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Scott Danelski

Chairman, John Wesely