

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met at the Lost Nation Clinton County Secondary Road Department Shed Unit 1, 101 Mohr Ave., Lost Nation, IA. Present were Supervisors Irwin, Srp and George.

6:30 P.M. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

6:30 P.M. Public Hearing

Chairman Irwin called a public hearing to order to solicit public comment on a proposed reclassification of 130th Avenue in Section 27 of Liberty Township to a level “C” road.

Present were Supervisors Srp and George, County Auditor Eric Van Lancker, County Engineer Todd Kinney and public.

Proof of publication was presented, accepted and returned for filing.

Irwin explained the Board is conducting the public hearing to gather public comment about the proposal and that the Board will not make a decision tonight. Kinney explained gates would be placed just up from the river if the reclassification is approved by the Board of Supervisors. He said access to the cabins in that area would still be accessible. He said anyone who needs access to the road would have a key to the gate. He said emergency services and utilities would also have keys for access. He said the Board won't take any action tonight but will collect comments from those in attendance for a decision to be made at a later date. Jim Lee stated he does not want a gate there. He said his grandkids kayak from the river access at the end of the road and his wife fishes from that access. Kinney said the County would consider placing an access to the river on 130th Avenue from the south of the river instead of the north. Garret Schneider, property owner who asked for the reclassification has owned it for four years and has filled a lot of dump trailers with trash. He said it's a great spot but not great for canoe access. He said it's dangerous getting to the river from there. He said many people drive down there and throw trash in that area. He understands a lot of people like the access, but he's trying to keep it clean. He said he has encountered people there doing things they shouldn't be. He wants the gate to keep out folks who don't belong there. Alan Richmann asked what a level C road is. Kinney said there is minimal maintenance on the road now. He said once the gate is up there will be virtually no maintenance. He said the County will put the gate up. He said it would not be permanent and could be reversed with another petition. Kinney said the resolution declaring it a level C road will prescribe the amount of maintenance that the road will be eligible for. Roger McNeil has a cabin a mile down the river from the access. He asked if the county could fix that up and cement it to make it a better access. He does realize that would defeat the purpose. Kinney said the signage there currently is not adequate. He said those signs will be upgraded according to how the Supervisors decide. McNeil said he drops his kids off there and they float down to his cabin. Rich Lindbom has a cabin in the area. He said that area is already a pain to get around due to the gates that already have keys. He is against putting a gate. Mac Humphreys said there is already one gate to get through there and its inconvenient. He said he understands the request but there must be another option. Pam Richmann owns a cabin in the area and believes the gate will mess things up for everyone. Harry Stevenson said he is not in favor of canoe access on the south side of the river. Trish Feuss agreed to not placing the canoe access on the south side of the river. Pat Gade said there are already plenty of gates in that area so another one is not needed. Schneider said the other gates could be eliminated and replaced with this one gate. Lindbom said it can't be opened up because there were once cattle in there. Paul Campbell owns property in the area and said there are enough gates there and road is sometimes washed out and they bring in fill to repair it. Molly Schneider said the best way to keep the property clean is to not make it a canoe access and encourage people to put in at Toronto. Irwin said the County almost needs to keep the access point as there are not many now and it is a good access point for emergency response. Kinney said trash in the road right of way is a secondary road duty and they will pick it up if called. He added that the sheriff's office said temporary cameras could be placed in the area for some enforcement for a temporary time period. Tom Vetter said the city of DeWitt is going to put license plate cameras on the streets and wonders why a sign can't be put up stating 'license plate cameras in use' that could deter a lot of trash dumping. Ken Lacey said he and his grandkids use that access for his cabin that is downstream and many of the cabins do the same. He said people will still dump trash at the gate. Kinney said it would be trespassing if people went past the gate and aren't allowed in that area. David Feuss said this will ruin recreation in the area including the conservation park in Toronto. Sherri Stofer said the current on the north end is better than putting in on the south side of the river. She said it is also a good access for emergency responders that need to get to the river. Robert Atkinson fire chief in Lost Nation said they would have to track yet another key to be able to get to that access which could delay emergency response time if there were an issue on the river.

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to adjourn the public hearing.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes.
adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Motion carried. The public hearing was

Srp suggested the Board schedule a vote on this petition in two weeks to give more people an opportunity to reach out to the Board.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Annual All-Systems Overweight Permit Routes in the County: Kinney asked if any in attendance were interested in this topic. It was not discussed as no interest was shown and the meeting was adjourned by Irwin.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet at 9:00 a.m. at Clinton County Administration Building, 1900 N 3rd. St, Clinton, IA, on Monday, February 20, 2023.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson