

**LYNDEN TOWNSHIP
STEARNS COUNTY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
Review 13th Ave Town Line Road Agreement with City of St. Augusta
OCTOBER 24, 2023**

Those present at the Lynden Township Hall are Supervisors Tom Plaggerman, Dennis Niemi, Scott O’Konek, Clerk Jenny Schmidt, St. Augusta City Administrator Bill McCabe, and City Council Member Jeff Schmitz. Plaggerman called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Agenda: Review the 13th Ave Town Line Road Agreement and the condition of 225th Str.

Plaggerman provided everyone a copy of the 2019 and 1996 agreement.

McCabe indicates the City has approximately 66 miles of roads, with less than 5 miles being gravel, and also a few private roads. He explains he has been receiving calls on the poor condition of 225th Str and requests the township perform routine maintenance on the road, notwithstanding the fact there is the signed agreement. The history of the road agreement pre-dates his time with the City but believes it came about based on the fact the previous Mayor, who was also a Town Supervisor during the time of St. Augusta Township, lived on 13th Ave and would likely have used 225th St. The City gets no tax base, government payment, or benefit since 225th Str is roughly 600ft of roadway off the north end of 13th Ave that lays entirely within Lynden Township. He proposes the township return the road to gravel, and the City will continue to mow and plow. Schmitz traveled the road and concurs the north portion needs attention.

Niemi states the 2019 agreement was drafted by Attorney Troy Gilchrist as Couri had a conflict. Both the Lynden Board and McCabe signed and executed that agreement. This agreement specifically covers this situation: Page 2, 5C: Major Projects. If the City wishes to return the road to gravel, that would be their decision.

Plaggerman has reviewed both the 1996 and 2019 agreements, spoke with the previous Lynden Township Clerk, the previous Mayor and reviewed Stearns Co GIS aerial maps and cannot determine what year the road was tarred. Plaggerman was told that 225th was included in the agreement for the purpose of continuity of maintenance from 13th Ave all the way to County Road 44. Whatever the reasons that St. Augusta’s chose to pave 13th Ave and 225th St., does not negate the fact that 225th Str has been and still is the City’s responsibility (ie: 2019 Agreement, Page 1, 1: Division of the Road and 4A: General Division and Maintenance Responsibility). The majority of residents who benefit from 13th Ave and 225th St. being a tarred road are City residents. Both Plaggerman and O’Konek agree that if the City wishes to return the road to gravel, that would be in their discretion.

Plaggerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by O’Konek, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt, Clerk

Thomas Plaggerman, Chair