

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP AND PARADISE TOWNSHIP JOINT MEETING  
HOME ROAD AND PROTECTORY ROAD PUBLIC DISCUSSION

OCTOBER 20, 2021 7:00 pm

Present Hamilton Township: Ron Weidner BOD Chairman, Mike Strausbaugh BOS Member

Present Paradise Township: Lance Biesecker Chairman BOS, Clark Craumer, Vice-Chairman BOS (Via Zoom), Dean Bentzel BOS Member

Additional: Ronald T. Tomasko, Esquire, Chad Clabaugh, P.E. Township Engineer, Support staff from Hamilton and Paradise Townships

Residents: There were a total 21 residents who signed in representing both Townships and 3 more residents joined later and did not sign

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Supervisor were asked to speak first:

Lance Biesecker: Presented information that FEMA did inspect both bridges after Tropical Storm IDA and Paradise Township has received correspondence that FEMA will pay 75% to replace the two bridges and PEMA will pay the remaining 25%. He said it has been the opinion of Paradise Township to replace at least one of the bridges but with the influx of the FEMA money, he feels we should definitely replace both.

Dean Bentzel: declined comment to Lance Biesecker's statement

Clark Craumer: spoke in favor of replacing both bridges for accessibility and also for emergency response. He did express a concern that if Protectory Road bridge is replaced and it results in increased traffic on that road, that the intersection of Protectory and Route 194 should possibly be a right turn only coming from Protectory Road.

Mike Strausbaugh: Stated with the information Lance just presented he believed that both bridges should be replaced also. If the FEMA money wasn't available, he believed at least one bridge should be replaced and was leaning to that bridge being Home Road Bridge because of the sight distance turning left out of Protectory Road onto Route 194.

Ron Weidner: Stated the information about the influx of FEMA money is a game changer increasing the favorability of replacing both bridges but he declined further comment wishing to hear the comments of the residents present.

Public comment: 24 attendees spoke in favor of replacing both bridges citing emergency response times, convenience, difficulty in pulling out at existing intersections where traffic is heavier with the bridges closed. Some stated they wouldn't care if Protectory was shut down but believe it should be replaced if money is available to replace it.

There were some concerns expressed about the Protectory Road and Route 194 intersection

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Minutes approved at November 8, 2021 Paradise Township Board of Supervisors meeting

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elwood A. Miller".

Elwood A. Miller

Secretary, Paradise Township