

**PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY ROAD TURNBACK
CLOVERLEAF TOWN HALL
NOVEMBER 17, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Commissioners Nelson, Lawrence, Sourdif, Sorenson, Peterson, County Engineer Mike Flaagan, County Coordinator Kevin Erickson, Interim County Attorney Nathan Haase, Dennis Kainz, Kevin Sanders, Clark Nelson, Wade Hruby.

Pennington County Board Chair Roy Sourdif called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. and introductions were made.

Mike Flaagan noted that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the potential turnback of specific County Road miles to Cloverleaf Township and MN Statutes require a Public Hearing in the township before the township can take any action.

Mr. Flaagan discussed the miles of county road being proposed for turnback, which consists of 3 miles of County Road #62 along the south side of Sections 32, 33, and 34. He discussed the township's 2025 Road & Bridge levy of \$15,000 and the town road funding of \$14,062, which totals \$29,062. With 22.75 certified town road miles in 2024, that's an average funding of \$1,277/mile. Mike noted that the county's maintenance cost per mile in total is \$3,200, so it is much cheaper for the township to maintain roads. The county doesn't receive state gas tax funds for the maintenance of county roads, whereas each mile of town roads receives state funding. Mike added that it's up to the County Board to decide if the roads get turned over to the township. Mike recommended that the township place their wishes in resolution on if they prefer waiting 2 years before taking them over or waving the 2-year period and ask for payment for 2 years of maintenance.

Mr. Flaagan noted that in 2025 the county graveled roads at the rate of 160 cubic yards per mile.

Mr. Flaagan then discussed the potential swap of one mile of CR#64 along Section 24 with one mile to the south along CR#63, noting the change would result in maintenance efficiencies for both entities. Discussion was held on the proposed road sections, road conditions and travel, and conditions of related road culverts. Mike suggested they review the roads and culverts and talk to the contractor that maintains their town roads to see if they can take on the additional miles. He noted that many townships still contract with the County for snowplowing of Township roads, so that option is available.

Mr. Flaagan stated that the current system of county and township roads is very complicated and inefficient with many breaks in maintenance miles, over time he would like to realign the miles to save costs and bring more efficiencies to local road work.

Discussion was held on the gravel for the local roads and with Mr. Flaagan explaining which area gravel pits serve the county roads in the township, and he stated this year the county put down better gravel at a heavier rate of 160 cubic yards per mile.

Commissioner Peterson stated that the turnback is an idea from the county and recommended that the Town Board look at this closely and decide if the turnback and/or road swap makes sense. Mr. Flaagan noted there is a lot of new money coming into the town road account from new funding sources, so the distributions for town roads should continue to rise. He said the amount of county and township roads in Pennington County is split very evenly, whereas most counties in the state have an average 80% town roads and 20% County roads.

Hearing no further comments or discussion, the Hearing was closed at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kevin Erickson, Coordinator
Pennington County

Mike Flaagan, Engineer
Pennington County

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