

VALLEY TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' HESS HILL MTG
October 8, 2014

Public Hearing Re: Vacating a Portion of Hess Hill Road:

A public hearing scheduled @ 6:45 to consider passing an ordinance to close a portion of Hess Hill Road. This public hearing was advertised x 3 in the Danville News. Those in attendance included Chairman Gary Derr, Supervisor/Secretary, Judy Achy, Zoning Officer Mike Kull & Solicitor Robert Buehner. The public was represented by residents Bob Beishline, Arlene Derr, Matt Derr, John Stine, Don Fasold, Pat Fasold, David Fox, Bruce Williams, Carol Williams, Jon Vastine, Jr., Lauri Berner, Mary Sudo, Edward Sudo, Amy L. Felegie, Robert Lee Hess, Glenn Simington, Ernie Wright, Ben Llewellyn, Amber Hendrickson & Danville News Reporter, Karen Blackledge.

Solicitor Robert Buehner moderated the meeting asking for those who spoke to identify themselves together with their address and the issues addressed were as follows:

David Fox of 105 Hess Hill Road asked what the reasoning was for the possible closing & Gary Derr responded that there is a real safety concern of the public and the owners of the property of which Gary Derr's family is the owners. The barn sits right at the corner of the road. Mr. Fox then asked if speed bumps could be used and was notified that they are unlawful in a rural setting. He then asked about placing stop signs @ either end of the S turns but Walt responded that we cannot place stop signs "willy nilly" and we would have to do a traffic study before any consideration of that. Mr. Fox also felt that this speed is a police matter for which the state police should be monitoring. He indicated that if the state police do not take care of this issue, the newspapers should be notified that they are not doing their job. Mr. Buehner told Mr. Fox that there is just not enough manpower. Mr. Fox also wanted to state that the sight line coming off of Bull Run Road to McCracken road "stinks".

Robert Hess of 123 Hess Hill Road suggested "put a new road in from Hess Hill Road to Camelton Hill Road and place it on the crest and it will basically clear itself of snow". Mr. Hess indicated that closing this road without having an alternative road, made no sense.

Lauri Berner of 95 Hess Hill Road indicated that she drives tractor trailer truck and normally takes the tractor home. She asked if this still could be done. Gary asked her to try Bull Run Road since the work has been done and he was certain she probably would not go back to using Camelton Hill Road. Lauri also asked about emergency vehicles. Would the response time still be the same?

Ben Llewellyn of 35 Hess Hill Road felt that all alternatives needed to be looked at. He was concerned about the water runoff down Bull Run Road and how long would that road be in the shape that it is now since all the work has been done to it. Ben felt that before it is all said and done, Bull Road really needs to be upgraded as a storm could wash out the entire road as has happened in the past. Ben asked why was this not considered 25 years ago?

Amy Felegie of 10 Indian Run Road is also concerned about getting emergency vehicles as well as the issue of coming out of Bull Run Road onto McCracken Road because of the sight line.

Matt Derr of 190 Cameltown Hill Road who is also on the Valley Township Road Crew indicated that 911 was notified of the road closure (when work was being done on both Hess Hill Road and Bull Run Road) and for emergency vehicles, it is actually quicker to use Bull Run Road to get to Hess Hill than it is to use Cameltown Hill Road.

Bruce Williams of 52 Hess Hill Road indicated that his wife Carol and daughter use that portion of Hess Hill Road (that is being discussed to vacate) on a daily basis to get to Cameltown Hill Road in order to travel to and from work. Carol Williams asked if letters could be sent to all residents when something of this importance is scheduled. Bob Buehner told Ms. Williams that would be impossible as what is important to some residents is not of importance to others and that this meeting was advertised three times in the Danville News and the cost of mailing would be unbelievable. Ms. Williams was also concerned that if the creeks went over, one would really be stuck as there would be no way out or in.

Ed and Mary Sudo of 140 Hess Hill Road felt that everything needs to be in place before anything like this can be considered.

Don & Pat Fasold of 70 Hess Hill Road would be in favor of a new road along the ridge going from Hess Hill Road to Cameltown Hill Road.

Amber Hendrickson of 35 Hess Hill Road stated that even though there would be a cost associated with putting a new road through, at least it would be out of the flood zone and we need to look @ the big picture and she felt the higher road was the best solution.

Glen Simington of 50 Bull Road Road asked if Bull Run Road would be trenched out as runoff has been quite concerning.

Ernie Wright of 40 Bull Run Road that Bull Run Road washes out all of the time and more recently has been on both sides. Ernie Wright also indicated that there is quite an eyesore on Bull Run Road with all of the used cars sitting at one property.

There was also a concern brought up about the lines at the end of McCracken Road connecting with Rt. 54 as they have worn off again and the question was asked if this could be addressed prior to winter.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Achy