Road Committee Minutes
March 17, 2010

Present: Schafer, Halstead, Savage, Miller, Harshfield, Rogers, Stites and Meyers

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 4;00 PM.

The minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

Meyers explained to the Committee how Hamburg Township's Ordinance worked. While it may be a bit too much for Whitewater, there are good concepts and rules included.

Discussion amongst committee members included:
- HOA responsibilities
- Picking up the pieces when the developer exits prematurely
- Last guy in assuming responsibility
- Maintenance (or lack of) of private roads.
- Winter maintenance is critical for emergency services

Stites stated that with seasonal roads and winter maintenance, the emergency service workers go as far as they can in vehicles and proceed on foot if necessary.

Harshfield asked for the justification of the Township's oversight of private roads.

Meyers responded that it is for the "health, safety and welfare" of all.

Harshfield sees Hamburg's Ordinance as very expensive for all – the Township, the Developer and potential residents.

Stites added that he needs assistance of rules and regulations to safely do his job.

Rogers stated that if assistance is needed, you utilize a contract engineer with costs being born by the developer.

Harshfield is concerned about oversight, storage of records and the liability associated with private roads.

Miller listed the priorities of a private road ordinance as follows: 1) Health, Safety and Welfare; 2) Future Responsibilities.

The Committee discussed Section 41.181 of Michigan law which gives townships the right to adopt ordinances.

Meyers added that a change to the ordinance can improve some of the "wrongs" regarding private roads within the Township if changes to land are proposed.

Committee requested Meyers work with Stites and Rogers and create a draft ordinance that is limited to 5 pages.

It was also determined that the existing Road Plan should be scraped and roads/transportation be incorporated into the Master Plan instead.

Next meeting set for April 12, 2010 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Meyers
Planning/Zoning Administrator