

**PUBLIC HEARING
DICKINSON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025**

A Public Hearing by the Dickinson County Board of Road Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at the Road Commission office located at 1107 S. Milwaukee Ave., Iron Mountain, MI 49801 to hear public comment on the Petition to Abandon Public Roads.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carey and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Commissioner Bilski, Commissioner Olson, and Commissioner Carey

ABSENT: Commissioner Brisson (excused)
Commissioner Johnson (excused)

Also present: Jim Harris, Managing Director; Missy Berger, Director of Finance; Steve Tinti, Dickinson County Road Commission Attorney; Cynthia Dixon Miller, Breitung Township; Mark Miller, Breitung Township; Justin Murawski, Breitung Township Assessor; Andy Buck, Lake State Land Surveying; Mike Celello, Schneider Attorney; Ann Gasperich, Breitung Township Deputy Assessor and Ryan Okler, Breitung Township.

CITIZEN'S TIME: None

APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA: Chairman Carey asked if anyone had any amendments to the agenda. Being none, a motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to approve the agenda. All ayes, and the motion carried.

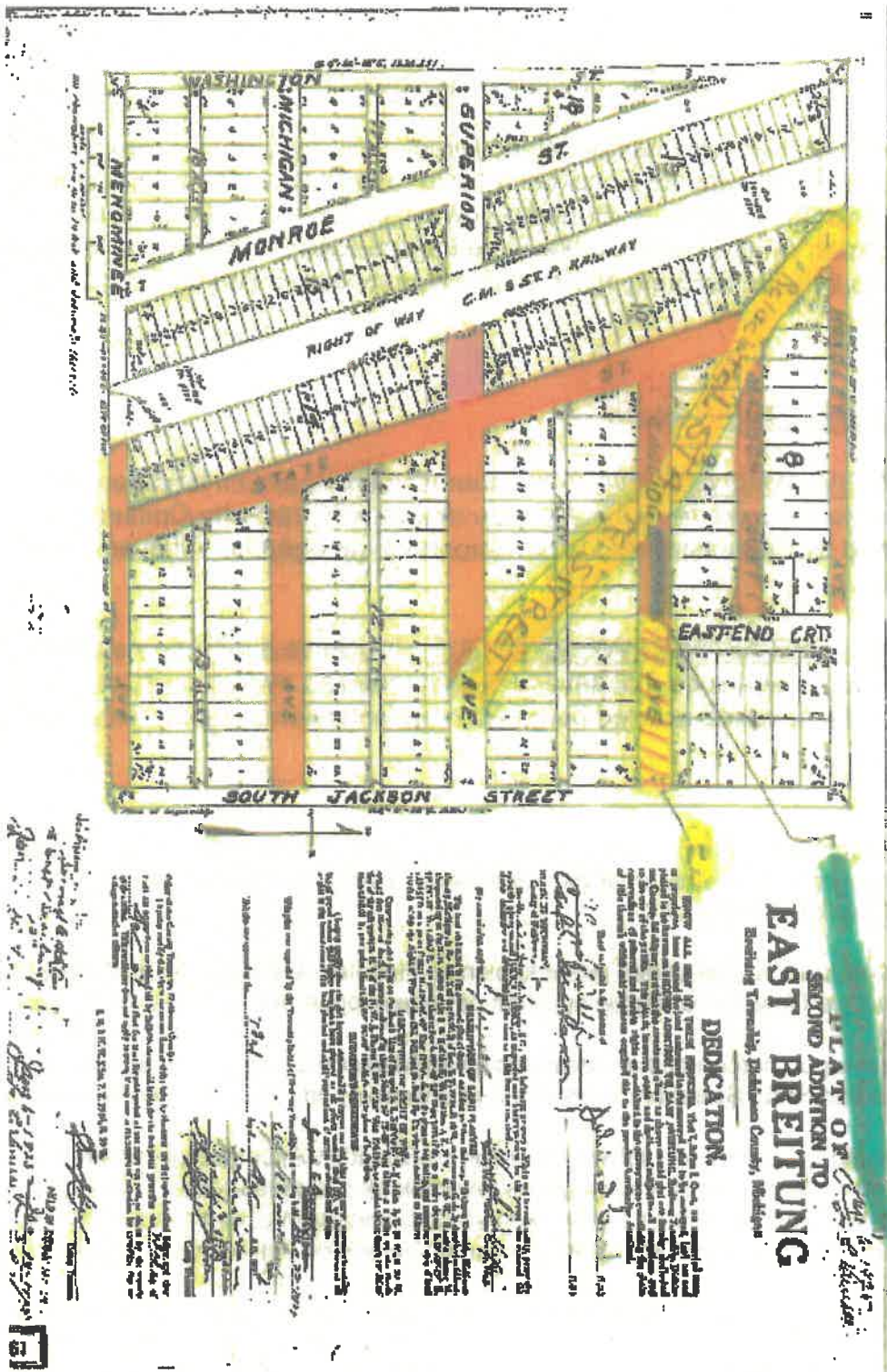
SCHNEIDER ABANDONMENT REQUEST: Steve Tinti, Attorney, explained to the Board and the Audience that seven Freeholders lead by Patrica A. Schneider have petitioned to the have roads listed below abandoned and the abandonment process that took place.

Second Addition to East Breitung according to the recorded plat thereof, and First Addition to East Breitung, according to the recorded plat thereof, Township of Breitung, County of Dickinson and State of Michigan:

1. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Hoadley Avenue lying East of presently developed State Street and lying West of undeveloped plat street know as East-End Court;
2. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Madison Court lying East of presently developed State Street and lying West of undeveloped plat street known as East-End Court;
3. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Coolidge Avenue that lies West of presently developed State Street and lying East of undeveloped plat street known as State Street;
4. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Coolidge Avenue that lies East of presently developed State Street and lying West of undeveloped plat street known as East-End Court;
5. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as State Street that lies South of presently developed State Street and lying North of the undeveloped plat street known as Menominee Avenue;
6. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Superior Avenue which lies East of Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad right-of-way and West of presently developed State Street;

- 7. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Michigan Avenue which lies East of undeveloped plat street known as State Street and West of undeveloped plat street known as South Jackson Street; and
- 8. Undeveloped portion of plat street known as Menominee Avenue lying East of Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad right-of-way and West of the plat street known as Van Buren Street.

Managing Director Harris provided a map showing the streets proposed to be abandoned in red color. Red hashed/yellow color will not be abandoned per discussion with Breitung Township Officials. Red with blue line designates the Coolidge Avenue abandonment area for the undeveloped portion of Coolidge Avenue which lies East of developed State Street and West of undeveloped plat street East-End Court that will reserve an easement for future water main purposes. Orange denotes the current realigned State Street.



Attorney Steve Tinti stated the roads highlighted in red are the roads requested to be abandoned. He further stated Breitung Township has concerns regarding the south side of Block 7 of Coolidge Avenue (highlighted in yellow with red hash tags) and the possibility that Breitung Township could develop a circular waterline route that's in their best interest to loop water down Coolidge to connect with the relocated State Street.

Chairman Carey then opened the floor for Public Comment.

Cynthia Dixon Miller, Breitung Township inquired about access to their property. Attorney Steve Tinti stated that all landowners will still have at least one point of access.

Justin Murawski, Breitung Township Assessor, wanted to clarify if Breitung Township will retain existing utility lines and if that will be written in the abandonment for the south side of block 7 of Coolidge Avenue. A discussion took place regarding water easements. Managing Director Harris stated that a reservation of water easement will be included in the abandonment.

Cynthia Dixon Miller inquired about future housing in the area. Ann Gasperich, Breitung Township Deputy Assessor stated Breitung Township has a new plan allowing housing, and if someone built a house in an industrial area, they would know it.

Ryan Okler, Breitung Township raised concerns regarding the west side of the RR tracks and if those roads have been abandoned. Managing Director Harris indicated that he would have Todd Rowell, Dickinson County Engineering Department, to do some research and get back to him.

Cynthia Dixon Miller inquired why Schneiders are requesting the abandonment. Attorney Steve Tinti stated that South State Street is located within an industrial facility and the purchaser of the area required it to be cleaned up. Additionally, lying North of the relocated State Street is not developed and the roads do not exist.

Andy Buck, Lake State Land Surveying inquired about property North of Hoadley Street. Attorney Steve Tinti indicated that property is not part of the abandonment. A discussion ensued regarding future development. Mr. Buck then inquired where Superior Street ends and Alter Metal is now, will water still come down Superior and west of the RR Tracks. Managing Director Harris stated that the Township retains water easements for the existing line to the old State Street and up just north of the scale house.

Cynthia Dixon Miller asked for clarification regarding Schneiders plans for future development. Attorney Steve Tinti stated he knows of no future plans.

Commissioner Olson asked if Block 8 or 9 were sold in the future and someone wanted to develop, what would be the process to bring in streets. Attorney Steve Tinti stated they would have a clean slate to work with giving them the ability to do what they want.

Chairman Carey asked if there were any more questions or comments. Being none, Chairman Carey closed the public hearing.

CITIZENS TIME: None

COMMISSIONERS PRIVILEGE: Managing Director Harris stated the backup generator worked for 14 hours due to a failed transformer that directly powers the DCRC garage and office during the last ice storm. He then read a Facebook Post from Big Rock Rides praising the crew for keeping the roads open and safe.

Attorney Steve Tinti stated the Resolution for the request for abandonment will be ready for the next regular monthly meeting being held on April 8, 2025, provided the financial reimbursement is received from Patrica A. Schneider.

Commissioner Bilski thanked the crew for the great job they did during the last storm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bilski and supported by Commissioner Olson to adjourn. All ayes, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Jim Carey, Chairman

Missy Berger, Secretary