

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT REQUEST – TACOMA DRIVE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Drews, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: William Drews, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; Misty VanGessel, Treasurer; Darcy Krause, Trustee;
Rodney Palmer, Trustee

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Drews, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

Drews and Palmer explained the reason for the public hearing and guidelines for the hearing. Drews read the request that was given to the Board by Tacoma Lake Estates representative Mark Mitchell.

Those opposed to the special assessment district were invited to speak first:

Almy and Linda Moore – own property on Cherokee Trail. Part of 50-foot width of Tacoma Drive is being used for shrubs, etc. There is not enough width for a snow plow nor a place to put plowed snow. There are 150 lots, fewer than 150 have homes, fewer yet are year-around homes. Agrees with paying for general road upkeep, but believes that those who own lots without homes should not have to pay for snowplowing. Suggests charging half for those who don't live there.

Carol Misner – asked how the money would be appropriated, who would decide how the money is spent, and whether every parcel pays, or one payment per property owner (regardless of number of parcels owned).

David Stiles – was told that signing the petition didn't mean that it was a vote for the project, believes all should have the opportunity to vote on it.

Mike Campbell – ice buildup creates potholes. Regularly keeping the snow off the road prevents that. Asked whether the 5-year agreement would be with the State of Michigan (Drews/Sprague – this would be a 5-year agreement with the Township, then would need to be renewed in order to continue.)

Buster Valentine – asked what the cost would be so that it can be compared to what residents now pay. Noted that road accessibility is necessary for fire/ambulance/police services.

Jody Garrison – was concerned about transparency of funds and who contracts for services. Asked whether assessment would be on both winter and summer tax (answer – just winter tax)

Mark Mitchell reported that he and his wife have been collecting the funds and coordinating maintenance of the road for close to 10 years. 51 mailings were sent in the Spring notifying property owners of a June meeting on the issue, only one was returned. Believes all were notified and should be aware of the issue.

Steve Fales – commended the job that Mark Mitchell has done, the road is much better. This improves everyone’s property values. Believes what is asked is fair, suggested setting up a 5-member panel for decision-making.

John Lutzke – owns the first house at the bottom of the hill. Used to not be able to get trash service because of road problems. Must have road to get property insurance and for EMS to have access. Meeting notices are sent annually, but few attend.

Karen Cox – 2002 Tacoma Drive, at dead end next to State land – supports the special assessment district and is interested in knowing how snowplowing will be handled this winter. Asked whether the \$150 amount could be negotiable to help satisfy those in opposition

Brian Buysse – 60-year resident, supports the special assessment district

Pat O’Connor, 2288 Tacoma Drive – supports the special assessment district, likes that residents would still have control over what work is done and who would do the work

Mike White asked for clarification that each property owner would only pay once per year

John Misner – supports the special assessment district and suggested that a vote be taken tonight

Mary Mitchell – road maintenance is required for home buyers to obtain financing. Asked for suggestions from those opposed as to what they think their fair share should be

Kathleen Parrish – supports the special assessment district (has the second smallest house on the road an still pays her share)

Sprague explained how the special assessment functions for Hunter Lake and that it would be similar for Tacoma Lake

VanGessel disagrees with a flat rate for all property owners when some own property with much less value than others

REQUIRED SECOND SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The second special meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Notices will be mailed to all property owners, with a ballot included.

ADJOURNMENT

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala