

Livestreams can be found @
<https://www.youtube.com/@DearbornCountyGov-47025streams>

DEARBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 16, 2025

**6:00 p.m. Henry Dearborn Room
Dearborn County Government Center
165 Mary Street, Lawrenceburg, Indiana**

CALL TO ORDER- Jim Thatcher, President, Duane Bischoff, Kevin Turner, Sue Hayden, Administrator, Connie Fromhold, Auditor, Andy Baudendistel, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

TITLE VI STATEMENT FOR COMPLIANCE-Read by Andy Baudendistel.

Appeal of Animal Control's Determination of Vicious Animal-

Vicious dog determination was issued December 5, 2025. A hearing needs to be done within 20 days, if there is an appeal. An appeal was received December 8, 2025. The hearing will be December 19th at 9:00am.

PUBLIC HEARING - Petition to Vacate Public Way

Open Public Hearing- Motion to open public comment by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff.

Public comment for Petition to vacate was given by Attorney, Grant Reeves.

Additional comment was given by members of the audience. (Mark Hall, Gary Denzler, Dylan Claar, and Marty Kraus.

Public comment was given by Dan Seevers in the form of a letter he read. Dennis Kraus also had a power point presentation. The Attorney, Jared Ewbank also spoke on the Seevers behalf. Joseph Graf spoke on behalf of Grakel Properties, LLC the buyers of the Seevers Property.

Close Public Hearing- Motion to close public comment by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff.

(Attached: Petition to Vacate Unimproved Right of Way, Seevers, Inc letter, Joseph Graf statement and Seevers Remonstrance and Objection of Petition of Vacation of Dog Ridge Road.)

Motion to Deny Petition to Vacate Unimproved Right of Way of Dog Ridge Road, by Duane Bischoff, seconded by Jim Thatcher, Kevin Turner voted nay.

Motion passed by majority vote.

(Brief recess)

OLD BUSINESS:

Property on Westside Dr., Aurora

Motion to table by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request to Use Remaining 2025 EMS LIT Funds - Aurora EMS, David Phelps, II

This \$32,000 remainder is for a used Dodge Durango as a chase car. There is also an Addendum to the original contract.

Motion to approve by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

Request to Use Remaining 2025 EMS LIT Funds - Greendale EMS, Tommy Craig

This \$30,000 remainder will be used towards a Stryker brand loading cot.

Motion to approve by Duane Bischoff, seconded by Kevin Turner, motion passed.

CSI Computer Systems Support Agreement \$6,740 Annually - Joyce Oles

Motion to approve by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

Travel Advisory - Jason Sullivan, EMA/EMS Director

Yellow Travel Advisory-12/1/2025 lifted 12/2/2025

Motion to approve by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

December 11, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. - Yellow (Level 1) Travel Advisory Issued

December 13, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. - Upgraded to Orange (Level 2) Travel Watch

December 14, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. - Downgraded to Yellow (Level 1) Travel Advisory

December 16, 2025 at 1:30 P.M. - Yellow (Level 1) Travel Advisory Lifted

Motion to approve by Duane Bischoff, seconded by Kevin Turner, motion passed.

Planning & Zoning-Nicole Daily

Moore Drive – Re-alignment, R/O/W Dedication & Acceptance Survey

Motion to approve and sign by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

County Park Board-5-year Master Plan (2026-2030) Informational only, IDNR is

reviewing it currently. It must be approved by IDNR.

Save Local Waters Membership – Matt Simpson, DCSWCD Stormwater Coordinator

Motion to sign Memorandum of Understanding by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

Inclement Weather Closure of Government Center Policy- There is currently a policy in the Dearborn County Handbook.

Department Head Appointments:

Administrator / ADA & Title VI Coordinator – Sue Hayden
Animal Control Director – Steve Hofstetter
County Attorney – Andy Baudendistel
Building Commissioner – Bill Shelton
Emergency Management Director/ EMS – Jason Sullivan
County Engineer – Todd Listerman
Highway Supervisor – Tim Greive
Maintenance Superintendent – Eric Hartman
911 Director – Kris Heitmeyer

Motion to approve by Duane Bischoff, seconded by Kevin Turner, motion passed.

Board Appointments

Community Corrections (SERCC) - Michael Sarapata, Wyatt Simpson, Bill Belew, Matt Probst, Greg Duncan, Gregory Coy, Rick Craig, Tom Baxter, Mario Todd
Regional Sewer - Steward Cline, Russell Beiersdorfer

Motion to table by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff, motion passed.

Health Board Appointments - Donald Rechtin & Steve Hubbard
Planning Commission - Eric Lang
BZA - Alan Miller
PTA BOA - Jodi Wolf, Mark Hardebeck
Alcohol Beverage Board - Tom Smith
Redevelopment Commission - Jim Deaton, Jim Mansfield, Tom Tepe, Trevor Bischoff
Emergency Management - Kris Heitmeyer, Max Webster

Motion to approve by Duane Bischoff, seconded by Kevin Turner, motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR – Sue Hayden

Certification of Annual Nepotism Policy- They have all been signed and collected.

AUDITOR – Connie Fromhold

Claims- Motion to approve by Duane Bischoff, seconded by Kevin Turner,

motion passed.

**Payroll- Motion to approve by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff,
motion passed**

**Minutes- Motion to approve by Kevin Turner, seconded by Duane Bischoff,
motion passed**

ATTORNEY – There are documents to sign to transfer hospital property.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Kevin Turner- He appreciates the Highway, EMA and all involved with snow fall.

They did a great job.

Duane Bischoff- He also appreciates the people that had to work during the snow emergency.

Jim Thatcher- Wishing everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

LATE ARRIVAL-None

PUBLIC COMMENT-None

ADJOURNMENT-Motion to adjourn by Duane Bischoff, seconded by

Kevin Turner, meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Attest:

Connie A Fromhold
Connie A Fromhold, Auditor

Jim Thatcher
President, Jim Thatcher

Duane Bischoff
Duane Bischoff

Kevin Turner
Kevin Turner

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF DEARBORN) SS:
)

TO: Board of Commissioners
Dearborn County, Indiana

PETITION TO VACATE UNIMPROVED RIGHT OF WAY

The Petitioners, Gregory T. Hyland and Martha A. Hyland, hereby respectfully request that the Board of Commissioners of Dearborn County, Indiana, vacate the following described alleged and unimproved public way roughly described as (a more thorough alleged description is attached):

A strip of ground thirty-three (33) feet wide, with the centerline being the entire East property line of the Petitioner's Real Estate, described as follows:

**Part of the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 7 North, Range 2 West:
Commencing at the northwest corner of said quarter. Thence south 105.33 perches along the east line of said quarter. Thence east 121.53 perches: thence north 26.93 perches: thence west to within 78.20 perches from the east line of said quarter: thence north 9.73 perches: thence west 30.53 perches: thence north 25 degrees west 53 perches: thence north 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ degrees West 22 perches: thence west 20.60 perches to the place of beginning. Containing 38.50 acres of land more or less. Excepting 20 acres sold to William Hammerle leaving in the above described tract 18.50 acres, more or less.**

Vacation

- 1) The Petitioners seek to vacate the identified unimproved alleged public way.
- 2) The Petitioners are the owners of 18.50 acres, more or less, which is affected by the alleged public way that the Petitioners are requesting be vacated.
- 3) The adjoining owners of the unimproved alleged public way are:

Gary L. Denzler & Nancy M. Denzler
25966 Dog Ridge Rd
Brookville, IN 47012

Seavers, Inc.
9082 York Ridge Rd
Guilford, IN 47022

- 4) The Petitioners reasonably believe that the alleged public way being proposed to be vacated has not been improved or has gone into complete disrepair.
- 5) The public way does not physically exist.
- 6) The proposed vacation will not prevent access to the lands of any person or entity.
- 7) The proposed vacation will not damage the neighbors in the adjacent neighborhood.

- 8) The proposed vacation will not hinder the public access to any church, school, or other public building or place, nor will the vacation hinder growth or orderly development.
- 9) Any vacation will be subject to the rights of existing utilities, if any shall exist.

The Petitioners understand a Notice of the Petition and Public Hearing must be published in the Dearborn County Register in the manner prescribed in IC 5-3-1, at their expense, on or before December 6, 2025, and that this matter will be set for hearing on December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The Petitioners understand they must contact each owner of land that abuts the property proposed to be vacated by certified mail as prescribed in IC 36-7-3-12 and required by the County of Dearborn; however, as stated, they do not believe any such landowner exists.

WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray that the Board of Commissioners of Dearborn County, Indiana, hold a hearing on this petition within thirty (30) days after this petition is filed; that the Auditor of Dearborn County, Indiana, give notice of the filing of this petition by publication of a notice of a hearing on said petition pursuant to Indiana Code 5-3-1-2, with said publication being published once in the newspaper of general circulation in Dearborn County, at least ten (10) days before the date set for a hearing; that the requirement of providing notice of said hearing by certified mail be waived since there are no owners of land that abuts the property proposed to be vacated except the petitioner; and that upon hearing, the Board of Commissioners of Dearborn County by ordinance vacate the hereinbefore described public ways, and thereupon the Auditor of said County shall file such vacation ordinance and shall furnish a copy of such vacation ordinance to the County Recorder for recording.

Gregory T. Hyland
Gregory T. Hyland

Martha A. Hyland
Martha A. Hyland

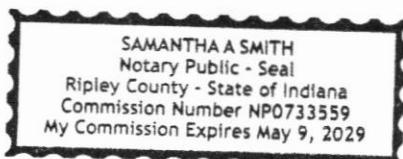
STATE OF INDIANA, COUNTY OF Dearborn, SS:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Gregory T. Hyland and Martha A. Hyland and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument this 17 day of November, 2025.

My Commission Expires:

5-9-2029

S.A.S.
Notary Public
Printed: Samantha A. Smith
Residing in Ripley County, Indiana



Full description of alleged public way

Thirty-three (33) feet in width, being 16.5 feet on both sides of the following described centerline:

Part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, Township 7 North, Range 2 West in Kelso Township, Dearborn County, Indiana, described as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 27, thence North 00 degrees 32 minutes 58 seconds West 295.92 feet; thence North 89 degrees 27 minutes 02 seconds East 5.42 feet to the centerline of Dog Ridge Road; thence South 05 degrees 16 minutes 48 seconds East 33.12 feet; thence South 01 degree 36 minutes 58 seconds East 57.21 feet; thence South 17 degrees 13 minutes 23 seconds East 86.26 feet; thence South 26 degrees 14 minutes 03 seconds East 52.17 feet; thence South 42 degrees 34 minutes 58 seconds East 54.75 feet; thence South 66 degrees 31 minutes 53 seconds East 60.33 feet; thence South 84 degrees 21 minutes 43 seconds East 133.60 feet; thence South 72 degrees 58 minutes 08 seconds East 55.03 feet; thence South 31 degrees 12 minutes 18 seconds East 47.32 feet; thence South 11 degrees 00 minutes 23 seconds East 187.49 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING;

Thence South 16 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds East 120.45 feet; thence South 22 degrees 43 minutes 10 seconds East 76.30 feet; thence South 29 degrees 59 minutes 02 seconds East 95.55 feet; thence South 26 degrees 18 minutes 07 seconds East 58.33 feet; thence South 22 degrees 26 minutes 01 second East 119.98 feet; thence South 26 degrees 45 minutes 02 seconds East 375.99 feet; thence South 22 degrees 23 minutes 42 seconds East 183.77 feet; thence South 03 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds West 269.71 feet; thence South 06 degrees 39 minutes 18 seconds West 135.84 feet; thence South 11 degrees 09 minutes 35 seconds west 73.80 feet; thence South 04 degrees 00 minutes 49 seconds West 112.90 feet to the Point of Termination.

REMOSTRANCE AND OBJECTION
BY SEEVERS, INC. AGAINST PETITION OF VACATION OF DOG RIDGE
ROAD

Seavers, Inc., by counsel, for its remonstrance and objection to the petition of Gregory T. Hyland and Martha A. Hyland to vacate an alleged public way at the south end of Dog Ridge Road in Dearborn County, states as follows:

1. Seavers, Inc. is the owner of approximately 58 acres of real estate in Dearborn County known as tax parcel 15-02-27-100-004.000-010. This real estate is contiguous to a portion of Dog Ridge Road which the Petitioners describe as an unimproved alleged public way proposed to be vacated.
2. Seavers, Inc. is therefore an aggrieved person within the meaning of Indiana Code section 36-7-3-12 and is entitled to object and remonstrate under section 36-7-3-13.
3. The Petitioners allege that the subject segment of Dog Ridge Road has not been improved or has gone into complete disrepair, that the public way does not physically exist, that its vacation will not prevent access to the lands of any person or entity, and that the vacation will not damage neighbors or hinder growth or orderly development.
4. These allegations are incorrect as to Seavers, Inc., and even if they were factually accurate, they do not establish any statutory basis for vacating this public way. Rather, as shown below, the proposed vacation would make access to Seavers, Inc.'s lands by means of a public way difficult and inconvenient and would leave those lands without any other convenient or reasonable means of ingress and egress, in direct violation of Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13.
5. Under Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13, a remonstrance may be filed by any aggrieved person on one or more of the following grounds: that the vacation would hinder the growth or orderly development of the unit or neighborhood, that the vacation would make access to the lands of the aggrieved person by means of public way difficult or inconvenient, that the vacation would hinder public access to a church, school, or other public building or place, or that the vacation would hinder the use of a public way by the neighborhood.
6. Subsection b of that statute provides that where a remonstrance is filed on access grounds and the vacation would cause the lands of the

aggrieved person to be served only by an access route that is not convenient or reasonable, the legislative body shall deny the petition to vacate the public way.

7. The facts in this case fit squarely within Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13(a)(2) and (b)(2) and compel denial of the Hylands' petition.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND REGARDING ACCESS

8. Dog Ridge Road is a county road that extends south from Schuman Rd near East Central High School and has been treated as a public way for well over a century. The road appears in the county's historic records as a county road, and Seevers, Inc. and its predecessors in title acquired their tract with the understanding that this segment of Dog Ridge Road provided their access to the public road system.
9. Seevers, Inc.'s 58-acre tract lies to the south of the Hylands' 18.5-acre tract. The portion of Dog Ridge Road that the Petitioners seek to vacate lies to the South of Hyland's 38 Acre tract and on the East side of Hyland 18.5-acre tract. If the segment of Dog Ridge Road south of the Hylands' property is vacated, Seevers, Inc. will lose its only feasible route of ingress and egress by public way to its 58-acre tract.
10. It is true that the Seevers own a tract of land that touches North Dearborn Road at one point, but that theoretical contact does not provide any convenient or reasonable access route without Dog Ridge Road. To reach North Dearborn Road from the internal portion of the Seevers tract without Dog Ridge Road, Seevers, Inc. would be forced to construct a new driveway or private road that descends from an elevation of approximately eight hundred ninety feet down to approximately seven hundred ten feet, a drop of one hundred eighty feet over a horizontal run of about six hundred eight feet, which corresponds to a slope of roughly 26%.
11. Typical rural road and driveway construction standards contemplate much more modest slopes. A 26% grade is extraordinarily steep, especially for regular farm or residential traffic, emergency vehicles, and construction equipment, and would be unsafe and impracticable for year-round use, particularly in winter conditions.
12. The terrain between the Seevers tract and North Dearborn Road also includes the East Branch of Tanners Creek. To obtain access without Dog Ridge Road, Seevers, Inc. would be required to descend the

26% slope, cross the creek by some form of bridge or ford, and then either climb roughly one hundred seventy feet over a hill to the west, or head east along the southern shore of Tanners Creek, then cross an additional tributary of Tanners Creek and climb then climb about thirty feet.

13. Regardless of which route Seevers, Inc. attempts, the County would be asking Seevers, Inc. to create a half mile of new private driveway across steep and flood prone terrain merely to recover access that presently exists via Dog Ridge Road.
14. By contrast, the existing Dog Ridge Road, even in its unimproved condition, provides a direct, historically recognized, and topographically reasonable connection between the Seevers tract and the public road system.

STATUTORY GROUNDS FOR REMONSTRANCE

16. The Petitioners assert that the proposed vacation will not prevent access to the lands of any person or entity and will not damage neighbors in the adjacent neighborhood.
17. Those assertions are demonstrably incorrect as to Seevers, Inc. Vacating the subject segment of Dog Ridge Road would make access to the Seevers lands by means of public way difficult and inconvenient, within the meaning of Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13(a)(2).
18. Moreover, the statutory text directs that where a remonstrance is filed on access grounds and the vacation would leave the remonstrant with no other convenient or reasonable means of ingress or egress via another public way, the legislative body shall deny the petition.
19. The only conceivable alternative route to North Dearborn Road would require Seevers, Inc. to construct an extremely steep private road down a 26% slope, across the East Branch of Tanners Creek and either cross an additional tributary or climb another substantial elevation change.
20. Such a route is not “convenient or reasonable” by any ordinary understanding of those terms and would be unsafe and economically prohibitive. Seevers, Inc. would effectively be stripped of functional access to its northern tract if Dog Ridge Road is vacated.

21. For these reasons alone, Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13(b)(2) requires the Board to deny the petition to vacate.

THE COUNTY'S LACK OF IMPROVEMENT DUTIES DOES NOT JUSTIFY VACATION

22. Petitioners rely heavily on the proposition that the subject segment of Dog Ridge Road has not been improved or has fallen into disrepair and that it is not presently used as a finished roadway.

23. Under Indiana law, however, a county does not incur an automatic duty to maintain every public way at a particular level of improvement simply because the way has been accepted or dedicated. In *Estate of Reasor v. Putnam County*, the Indiana Supreme Court held that a county has no duty to maintain a highway that it accepts until it improves that highway and incorporates it into the county highway system. *Estate of Reasor v. Putnam County*, 635 N.E.2d 153 (Ind. 1994).

24. Thus, even if Dog Ridge Road has not been improved to modern standards, the County is not compelled to vacate the route in order to avoid a nonexistent maintenance obligation. The County may lawfully keep the corridor open as a public way while permitting adjacent owners, such as Seavers, Inc., to maintain or improve the surface at their own expense if they choose.

25. Long periods of limited use or lack of formal improvement do not, by themselves, extinguish public rights in a dedicated way. In *City of East Chicago v. E. B. Lanman Co.*, 212 Ind. 524, 8 N.E.2d 242 (1937), the Supreme Court of Indiana recognized that abandonment of an easement or way turns on intention proven by surrounding facts, and that mere nonuse, even for an extended period, is only one factor and does not automatically establish abandonment as a matter of law.

26. Here, the County has never taken formal action to vacate Dog Ridge Road. The Petitioners' dissatisfaction with the unimproved condition of the corridor does not transform it into a private strip that can be closed without regard to Seavers, Inc.'s access rights.

VACATION WOULD HINDER GROWTH AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT

27. The Seavers tract is productive rural acreage that can be used for agriculture, timber, conservation, or future low density residential development consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

Continued public road access via Dog Ridge Road supports these uses and preserves the flexibility of the County and its landowners in planning future development.

28. If this portion of Dog Ridge Road is vacated, the Seevers tract will become effectively isolated from the road network. That isolation would hinder the growth and orderly development of the neighborhood by foreclosing future lawful land uses that depend on public road access, and by forcing any future access solution into the steep creek valley, with attendant safety and environmental concerns.
29. For these reasons, the petition also meets the separate ground for remonstrance that a vacation would hinder the growth or orderly development of the unit or neighborhood in which it is located or to which it is contiguous, under Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13(a)(1).

POTENTIAL INVERSE CONDEMNATION CONSEQUENCES

30. Indiana law recognizes a statutory inverse condemnation remedy when property is taken for public purposes without the use of formal eminent domain procedures. Indiana Code section 32-24-1-16 provides a procedure for landowners to recover just compensation when a governmental action has taken or damaged property interests without prior condemnation. *Old Romney Development Co. v. Tippecanoe County*, 817 N.E.2d 1282 (Ind. Ct. App. 2004).
31. In *Old Romney Development Company v. Tippecanoe County*, the Court of Appeals explained that an inverse condemnation claim requires a landowner to show an interest in land that has been taken for public use without the protections of eminent domain, and further held that no compensable taking occurred in that case because the owner still had reasonable access to the highway via a state road, even though the route had become more circuitous. *Id.*
32. *Old Romney* therefore illustrates the converse principle: when a governmental action eliminates reasonable access and leaves only impracticable, unsafe, or prohibitively expensive routes, a compensable taking may result.
33. If the Board were to grant the Hylands' petition and vacate the segment of Dog Ridge Road that currently serves the Seevers tract, Seevers, Inc. would be left with no convenient or reasonable means of

ingress or egress to that tract over a public way, for the reasons described above.

34. Under those circumstances, the vacation ordinance could be alleged to effect a taking of Seevers, Inc.'s access rights, exposing the County to an inverse condemnation claim along with costs, attorney fees, and damages. Avoiding such potential liability is an additional reason to deny the petition and maintain Dog Ridge Road as a public way serving all adjoining owners.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

35. For the foregoing reasons, Seevers, Inc., by counsel, respectfully requests that the Dearborn County Board of Commissioners:

- A. find that Seevers, Inc. is an aggrieved person under Indiana Code section 36-7-3-12 and section 36-7-3-13.
- B. find that vacating the subject segment of Dog Ridge Road would make access to the lands of Seevers, Inc. by means of a public way difficult and inconvenient, and would leave those lands without any other convenient or reasonable means of ingress or egress within the meaning of Indiana Code section 36-7-3-13 subsection b paragraph two
- C. find that vacating the subject segment of Dog Ridge Road would hinder the growth and orderly development of the neighborhood.
- D. deny the Hylands' petition to vacate any portion of Dog Ridge Road that provides access to the Seevers tract.
- E. confirm that Dog Ridge Road shall remain a public way open for use by Seevers, Inc. and the public, without imposing upon the County any duty to improve the unimproved segment beyond what is required by law and
- F. grant all other just and proper relief.

EWBANK & KRAMER

By: /s/ Jared J. Ewbank

Jared J. Ewbank, #34004-15

114 W. High Street

Lawrenceburg, IN 47025-1908

Phone: (812) 537-2522

Fax: (812) 537-2531

Email: contact@ewbankkramer.com

Seeversons Inc.

**c/o Dan L. Seeverson
9063 Yorkridge Road
Guilford, IN. 47022**

Dec 16, 2025

**To: Dearborn County Commissioners
RE: Objection to the Petition to Vacate Portions of Dog Ridge Road**

Honorable Board of Commissioners,

We respectfully object to the petition to vacate a portion of Dog Ridge Road. Vacating of this portion would prevent access to properties that we own that depend on this roadway for access.

Although not pertinent to this objection, I would like to make a statement about our intentions, which seems to be concerning the citizens of currently maintained Dog Ridge Road.

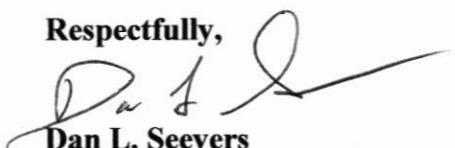
We are NOT asking the Commissioners to

- Reconstruct any roadways**
- Maintain any roadways**
- Commit the county to any expenses connected with this roadway**

- 1. We do not plan, nor anticipate any requests to the county to reopen, reconstruct, or maintain any portions of the road other than what is being currently maintained,**
- 2. It is not our intention, nor in our plans to develop or subdivide any of the portions of land adjacent to Dog Ridge Road. We wish to maintain these tracts of land in their current natural and rural conditions.**
- 3. We do not intend to request any driveway permits beyond the existing limits of Seeversons Inc. property serviced by Dog Ridge Road.**
- 4. Any future requests for driveway permits will be for privately constructed and maintained roadways. We would also maintain liability for these driveways. Although these would be legally accessible to the public, they will be constructed in such a manner as to not make them attractive to the public.**
- 5. Our intended usage will not increase traffic or associated safety concerns to other residents of Dog Ridge Rd. Traffic counts will pretty much remain the same as they are now.**
- 6. We cannot control trespassing nor hunting on any properties. Nor can we control access on public right of ways. To date, Seeversons Inc has not patrolled our lands for either of these situations. We are currently in the process of selling the northernmost portion of our property to a family who are active hunters. We are planning on allowing them to control hunting and fishing on our remaining pieces of property. In effect, this area will be more actively managed in regards to hunting and fishing**

Hopefully, this will help to clarify our intention for the properties we own along Dog Ridge Rd.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan L. Seavers".

Dan L. Seavers

President, Seavers Inc.

To: Dearborn County Commissioners
From: Joseph Graf, Registered Agent, Grakel Properties, LLC
Date: December 15, 2025
RE: Objection to the Petition to Vacate Portions of Dog Ridge Rd.

My name is Joseph Graf, and on behalf of myself and my family (also Grakel Properties LLC members) we would like to formally object to the petition to vacate the proposed portion Dog Ridge Rd.

Unfortunately, false rumors have circulated about our plans—claims of building homes, selling to a developer, subdividing into eight lots, or extending the road to New Alsace. These rumors are entirely untrue and unfounded. Anyone who signed the petition to vacate Dog Ridge Road based on these rumors have been misled.

Regarding these rumors and the petition for abandonment which has been distributed among the community:

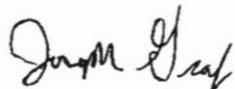
- No development is planned, so no added pressure on the corridor
- With no new development, there are no new traffic or safety concerns
- We will add gravel to the unmaintained portion of the road, without requesting county maintenance or snow removal
- Our sole intent is to hunt our land; we have no interest in neighboring properties. Any trespassing that has/is occurring has been by others on the Seavers properties
- We aim to protect and improve the natural habitat
- County precedent already allows access via historic roadways. The only precedent here would be a troublesome one, requiring landowners to seek Commissioners and community approval before selling their personal property

Our true intent is preservation. The land will be held within Grakel Properties, LLC, which I established on September 15, 2025, with provisions ensuring it remains in our family. Article VI states: "The land is intended for family recreation, including camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and other agreed-upon activities."

We are not requesting, nor do we intend, to extend Dog Ridge Road into New Alsace. Historical maps confirm Dog Ridge and Jacobs Roads are distinct. Our petition seeks only permission to use the unmaintained portion of Dog Ridge Road for access to Seavers property, as historically intended.

Our approach will emphasize stewardship—maintaining the natural habitat, improving the unmaintained portion of the road, and preserving the land's natural beauty. Over time, we hope our actions demonstrate our commitment to honoring and protecting both the property and the broader community.

Respectfully,



Joseph Graf
Registered Agent- Grakel Properties, LLC.