

Big Oak Road speed limit reduced

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By Christian Menno

Staff writer

Big Oak Road in Middletown has been a problem area for years.

Officials are well aware of the drainage problems that lead to massive potholes that appear each year.

But because the township cannot afford the estimated \$1.3 million needed for a complete overhaul of the street, the board of supervisors took action Tuesday to at least help prevent more drivers from damaging their vehicles.

The board voted 4-1 to enact a resolution that temporarily lowers the speed limit on Big Oak Road from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour for up to 90 days. It also authorized the advertisement of an ordinance that would permanently lower the speed limit. Supervisor Robert McMonagle was the lone board member to vote against the change.

The proposed ordinance will be voted on at a future public meeting.

While officials said they've received numerous emails from residents complaining about the safety of the road, only two spoke out Tuesday.

Both said the speed reduction would be ineffective at best.

Supervisor Chair Pat Mallon said changing the speed limit is "a minimal expense" and that township officials continue to look for alternative sources of funding - such as grant opportunities - to come up with the money for the full repairs.

Repeated attempts to patch the road and fill in the potholes have been unsuccessful in the long-term, officials said.

Recently, public works employees installed lighted signs warning drivers of the hazardous conditions.

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