



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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July 3, 2018

Sheriff Joel Wener
Pepin County Sheriff's Department
740 7th Ave West
Durand, WI 54736

RE: Construction of Driveway Entrance Serving Bauer and Bechel Properties on USH 10

Dear Sheriff Wener:

I am writing to advise your office of the fact that this agency has issued an appropriate and legal permit to Richard and Estella Bauer, and their contractors, to improve the connection between USH 10 and a shared driveway/highway connection they use to access their lands in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 25, T25N, R13W, Town of Durand, Pepin County at approximately the current location of fire No. 5003.

The Bauer's contractor began work on the improvements this past weekend and was apparently obstructed in completing its work by a Mr. Asher. Ms. Karen Bechel, who owns the single-family residence at that location, apparently has a relationship with Mr. Asher and has authorized him to speak with Department staff regarding the modifications the Department has authorized at this location. Ms. Bechel and Mr. Asher have previously deposited various obstructions in the highway at this location in an attempt to obstruct use of the entrance by farm equipment. WisDOT is concerned about the escalation in inappropriate behavior by Ms. Bechel and/or Mr. Archer this past weekend.

In brief, the Bauers own an easement along old USH 10, which permits them to follow the quarter-quarter line south from USH 10 to lands they farm south of the Bechel property. We have no record of old USH 10 being abandoned, so I believe the Bauer easement runs over and along the highway easement for old USH 10. WisDOT believes improvement of the connection between the driveway/old road and current USH 10 is appropriate to accommodate farm equipment and improve safety at the connection. The Department owns a great deal of land (to approximately 80' from the highway centerline) in this area, and the work should all be completed on the department's right-of-way.

I am writing to Ms. Bechel advising her and Mr. Asher to cease in their activities disrupting the modifications to the connection. I am writing you to advise you of the status of the matter in the event your officers are called to the scene. The area where this work is being performed was recently surveyed, and a copy of that survey, the deed by which the State acquired title to the land are enclosed and the letter I sent Ms. Bechel are enclosed for your reference should this become a matter that requires your office's attention.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. It is our hope your assistance will not be required for the Bauers' contractor to complete this highway work.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Sobotik".

John J. Sobotik
Assistant General Counsel