

If I were an elector, I would make sure I am supporting an action that people would want to see happen and one that would benefit our town. For example, Minn. Stat. § 365.10 states we can build a bridge, provide ambulance services, buy grounds for a public park, provide cemetery care, gravel roads, restrain animals, etc (“Office of the ...” [Sec. 365.10 MN Statutes]). With the powers of an elector in mind, I would then proceed to get an action in the form of a motion.

One of the rights I would use is stated in the 2020 Manual on Town Government, “Minn. Stat § 365.02 provides that towns are ‘public corporations’ that may sue, own and dispose of property and contract” (*Chapter 5...*). I would use this authority, because it would help me in my desire to fix a road. It is the town’s duty to make sure that the road is in good condition for use, and it is one of their powers. Fixing a run-down road involves the property of the town and getting a contract for a corporation to fix the road.

Another authority I would use is listed in Minn. Stat. § 366.03 and it states that if a city neglects to keep its streets in repair, the town board has the power to make improvements on a city street needed as a highway (“Office of the ...” [Sec. 366.03 MN Statutes]). This authority supports my case, because this statute gives power to the board to renovate the road if the city is not handling the condition of the street. I would bring my motion to the board to fix the road as it is listed in their duties to do so.

Once I have called for a motion to build a new road, I would then ask the Council to undertake the action I have suggested. Following my motion, I should receive a seconder for my motion, meaning another person supports my motion to build a new road. Those in attendance can debate the motion if they choose, and then proceed with voting for or against the motion. Any town resident is qualified to vote, including town clerks, town supervisors, clerk, treasurer, moderator, and so on.

Voting usually occurs by a show of hands, a voice vote, or a ballot. When dealing with a sensitive issue, where people may not want to publicly voice their opinion or the number of votes is important, it would be best to use a paper ballot.

If the board does not feel like the action is in the best interests of the town, electors cannot force the board to take action. Electors are typically only involved in granting or denying authority to the board to carry out activities that specifically require authorization. However, through my motion and the votes of the electors, I will have succeeded in getting my action to happen.