

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

July 25, 2011
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner
Jason Sladky
Jim Brey
Alex Olson
Allan Schema

STAFF PRESENT

Val Mellon
Greg Minikel
Sonja Birr
Randy Junk
Mike Huck
Juliana Ruenzel

OTHERS

Buck Sweeney, Attorney
Mike Check, 9140 Hilltop Rd
Billy Hutterer, 7120 Hillcrest
August Krieser, 826 South 25th
Mary Burkart, 3514 Schroeder Dr.

Approval of the Minutes from 7/11/11

J. Brey made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2011 meeting. A. Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Communication (10-064) from SMI requesting that Streets and Sanitation Committee take action on various issues relating to storm water pond maintenance costs

Mike Check was present with his Attorney Buck Sweeney to discuss storm water pond maintenance costs and Development Agreements and Utility Districts options with the Committee. A Development Agreement would address pond maintenance cost issues up front within the subdivision. A Utility District is another option that has been successfully used by some municipalities, but is not as routine as a Development Agreement. The procedure for creating a utility district is simple, according to Attorney Sweeney. Essentially you follow the procedures for a public hearing relative to special assessments. The utility district is a device that allows for cost recovery from properties that benefit from the public improvement project. In the case of the ponds, all land draining to each pond would be designated as a separate utility district.

J. Ruenzel, City Attorney, said that she has reviewed the documents that were previously submitted by Attorney Sweeney. She said that the utility district is a way of assessing costs to the people who directly benefit from the stormwater pond. Other things could also be assessed to the Utility District other than stormwater pond maintenance. The cost for each separate utility district applies only to the district specified.

J. Brey commented that we could have 10 utility districts. The City would have a separate account designated to be used only for maintenance of the pond for that district and could not be tapped for use on other projects/areas and would require 2/3 vote of the Common Council, according to J. Ruenzel. This will ensure that the City would have a fund in reserve for maintaining all these ponds.

M. Check suggested that this would only apply toward future developments as it wouldn't be right to try to add to existing pond maintenance agreements.

A. Olson said that he feels this should be spread out over the entire City and not just the specific subdivisions. J. Sladky agreed with A. Olson.

Discussion ensued about the ponds and what dollar amount would be required from the Developers for the City to take these ponds over. G. Minikel reminded everyone that DNR Technical Standards would need to be met before the City would start taking over any ponds and that we will still need to address both existing and all new development. The only known variable at this time would be the cost to maintain (mow, dredge, etc.) the existing ponds. V. Mellon reminded everyone that there are many unknown variables, such as dredging the ponds and if the dredged material with possible testing can be recycled into topsoil in lieu of landfilling, which would result in a huge cost savings.

J. Sladky said we need to come up with an agreement on an amount to take these existing ponds over. G. Minikel suggested that we could always do this in two phases; we could address new development while we continue to work out the existing pond agreement.

We will need to meet with Mike Check's Committee to determine an amount to take these ponds over. No specific date or timeframe was mentioned.

Discussion and possible action on the driveway approach at 826 South 25th Street

Augie Kriesser was present to discuss his driveway approach and concern he has with the bottom of his vehicle scraping against the approach. He is concerned with damaging the wheelchair lift that is on his van.

G. Minikel said that he previously looked at his driveway approach and the 12 percent slope is normal. He didn't feel the City needed to do the work as it is within the City standards.

J. Brey explained that he previously had a new approach done, but it was repaired by the City since it was not within the City standards (to maintain the pitch required by the City.)

D. Soeldner didn't want to set precedence by offering to repair at the City's cost any drives that resident's felt were too steep. That is the reason for development of the standard allowance grades and policy.

V. Mellon wouldn't object to allowing a permit for Mr. Kriesser to do the work himself. She was only opposed to having the City to do the work at City expense.

Mr. Kriesser said he would do the work himself and the Committee was in favor of it. Mary Burkart was present and informed the Committee that the asphalt is rolled over and she is concerned for Augie's safety as he has almost tipped over in his wheelchair. The Committee recommended that the Engineering Dept. work with Mr. Kriesser to issue the permit.

R. Junk explained that in circumstances when the slope is not within the standards the City will fix and sometimes repair the areas that the asphalt has folded over.

Discussion and possible action for a request from Dave Korte for City participation in repaving Plank Road

The Committee felt that the City portion of Plank Road is in much better condition than the County portion. There were different options to repave that were presented by the Town of Rapids. There is a Town meeting that will be held on August 9th to discuss. J. Brey said he will try to be in attendance. A. Olson agrees that it is not worth fixing the City's portion if the condition is not that bad.

D. Soeldner said to wait until the Town of Rapids Meeting.

Discussion and possible action on job description for street sweepers

D. Soeldner said he wanted to re-visit this issue as he wasn't convinced that the street sweepers couldn't document the information needed for ticketing that the seasonal employees are currently doing.

V. Mellon explained that we tried allowing this and there were too many errors and the sweepers didn't make it through their districts. They are able to get through them now. At times they had to get out of the sweepers to get the information, which included house numbers and vehicle make/model details.

M. Huck said that it could take up to another minute per ticket if the driver would have to get out and write down these details, as it is difficult to see from their position in the sweeper, especially since it is still dark outside.

The ticket process was discussed. A. Olson said that the Chief of Police previously said that they would try to mail out all the tickets, instead of placing on the vehicles. The tickets still need to be written out by somebody and most of this is being done by these students. J. Sladky said that there is no reason the sweepers couldn't handle writing down the most needed information (make, model, license number) and leave it at that.

Allen Schema thought the public might have more of a problem with the street sweepers pulling aside for a few minutes to write down the information.

J. Brey said that it comes down to the parking ban and the public doesn't like it. He didn't think the sweeper could be efficient if required to write down the information.

The tickets have been cut down by ½ of what it was last year.

D. Soeldner said that there are ways to make this work. J. Brey suggested riding in the sweeper at night to see what can be seen or not seen.

Discussion and possible action on fall leaf collection staffing requirements

D. Soeldner thought it would be a good idea to discuss how we will handle the fall and winter season.

R. Junk explained the fall cleanup and how crews are divided.

The fall cleanup begins at the end of September and after about 2-3 weeks, the sweepers can't handle the leaves anymore. This is when the leaf vacs come out. R. Junk explained the crews he uses for leaf and brush pickup and said that leaf pickup occurs until Thanksgiving or the first snow fall.

He also informed the Committee that the concrete/blacktop crew, sewer crew are still out and the catch basin cleaning is still being done.

No further discussion.

Discussion and possible action on snowplow staffing requirements

R. Junk discussed with the Committee the snowplow crews and the 37 pieces of equipment that is utilized. The plowing operation consists of a bridgetender that operates the wing controller only. Two cemetery workers (Parks workers) plow the alleys and Cemeteries.

Nine (9) graders are rented (only when we are able to). Ten (10) private haulers are used for snow cleanup. R. Junk explained the importance of increasing our rates in order to continue to obtain these haulers.

The Committee wondered how many Parks employees carried CDL's and R. Junk said that all of them hold their CDL's. R. Junk highly recommends training personnel for operating the grader as he is not comfortable with just anyone operating this piece of equipment.

J. Sladky wanted to know who we would have perform the work if the laid off personnel are not brought back.

Discussions were held regarding Parks, DPW crews, possible privatizing of smaller equipment and training of Parks personnel for plowing.

M. Huck explained the cost saving since the layoffs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Handwritten signature of Valerie Mellon, P.E. in cursive script, underlined.

Valerie Mellon, P.E.
Director of Public Works
and City Engineer