

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

October 24, 2011
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner
Jim Brey
Jason Sladky
Alex Olson
Allan Schema

STAFF PRESENT

Val Mellon
Greg Minikel
Sonja Birr
Kevin Glaeser
Randy Junk

OTHERS

Michael Check, 9140 Hilltop Rd
Jeffrey Check, 9628 S. Union Rd
Mark Balaban, 917 Sarah Miles
Bob Popp, 6008 CTY LS

MEMBERS ABSENT

Approval of the Minutes from 9/26/11

Minutes from the September 26, 2011 meeting were approved 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

M. Check and other developers were present to discuss the City taking over maintenance of the stormwater ponds in their Subdivisions. Mike Check explained that on a \$200,000 home, the city's share of the property tax is \$1,416.97. Any future development would only bring in additional revenue for the City as the streets are already maintained through the prior developments. This tax amount increases as more lots are sold and more homes are built. The developers are required to build these ponds within the subdivision and the likelihood that any dredging material would need to be brought to a landfill is very minimal. In essence, the developers feel that the City will receive added tax base on new homes built which should offset any maintenance costs presented previously by the Committee and City Engineers. There are currently 70 lots plus Silver Ridge Subdivision available. The developers do not want to pay the City to take the ponds over.

D. Soeldner said that there really wasn't any new content presented to the Committee. He wants to be fair to all developers and doesn't know how to get past our current and past discussions. From a Municipal standpoint, we can't fiscally afford to waive potential Revenue to the City.

M. Check pointed out that now there is a figure of Revenue that was previously paid via property taxes that is being presented to the Committee. J. Check also said that an analysis was done and this is the new material being presented to the Committee. There are plenty of tax dollars being generated at this time. The developers are looking for some sort of indication of the future direction of the City and what sort of interest the City has in attracting and stimulating future development.

Other communities are coming up with ideas to attract developers and take over of the ponds is a given in other places.

Alex Olson questioned the fee, since he wasn't present for past conversations. Will this fee be put into an account to pay for any fees related to the pond. He has a difficult time charging a fee if there will be no dredging. Preserving the revenues in an untouchable account has been discussed in order to provide for pond maintenance but nothing has been specifically set up.

J. Sladky doesn't think this will pass through Council. He agrees that the City should take these ponds over, but a fee should be attached with it. The discussions were based on the amount for the City to maintain these ponds and has changed to \$0 by the developers.

The Silver Ridge pond shouldn't even be part of the equation as the lots were sold around the pond and these are actually being referred to as waterfront properties. There have been numerous problems with the Silver Ridge pond and the Committee doesn't want to commit to taking responsibility for this pond at this time. This pond will have to be handled separately as a special case.

Alex Olson made a motion to take over existing and future storm water ponds at \$0. A. Schema seconded the Motion.

Alex Olson said we need to start somewhere and further discussion should take place at Council. We should continue to move forward with this issue.

Alex Olson amended his motion to exclude Silver Ridge Pond. A. Schema seconded the amended motion.

J. Brey said that he will not support the motion at this time.

Alex Olson made a motion for the City to take over all existing and all future Stormwater ponds that are privately developed excluding privately owned and not owned collectively by the subdivision or the developer at \$0.

The motion passed on a 3-2 vote. (2 Nays-D. Soeldner and J. Brey; 3 Ayes)

Discussions will take place at the next Council meeting. No further discussion.

Discussion and possible action concerning utilization of DPW and Parks equipment and manpower

J. Sladky recommended this be placed on the agenda. He questioned why the City crews were doing crackfilling in a MPU parking lot while we are currently short staffed and unable to repair necessary areas on the city

streets. V. Mellon explained to him that this was Revenue brought in and it would be hard to turn down. J. Sladky said if we are unable to get to the City streets, why are we doing private parking lots that can be contracted out.

R. Junk further explained that we were honoring a commitment that we made prior to the layoffs and were returning a favor as MPU spent 2 days at the 40th & Archer Street lift station to evaluate the pump bearings which lead to the manufacturer finding a way to bring down operating temperatures. This analysis was at no cost to the City. R. Junk explained that the City returned the favor and in addition we took in over \$4,220 in Revenue.

G. Minikel questioned if we need to bring future requests of similar nature to the Streets Committee for their approval.

J. Sladky and A. Schema both agreed that City work needs to come first. A. Olson thought the parking lot should be secondary work.

J. Brey said we are looking for areas to bring in Revenue.

G. Minikel explained the work was done in September, not during the peak construction season at DPW.

K. Glaeser reminded the Committee that we don't want to burn bridges; MPU is there when we need them as well.

Alex Olson brought up the discussion about the upcoming winter plowing and asked if we had a plan for call-ins and using Park workers for plowing and then how would we address the park plowing.

V. Mellon explained that the City is planning to close and winterize several parks and may even utilize seasonal employees to extend the crews for certain shoveling activities. K. Glaeser said that more buildings will be closed than in the past. The buildings can not be completely shut down, so will close up as much as possible.

J. Sladky said that the Parks Department shoveled corners and thought it would be possible to contract out in 2012.

Discussion took place regarding the parks that would be closed down this winter to save the City money. Cabin rentals generate enough revenue during the winter to keep open.

Overtime was discussed and will occur only when necessary. It can't be eliminated entirely; however, it will be reduced drastically.

R. Junk said during smaller storms, the Cemetery employees will be put on parking lots, which usually get done early and if time is allowed the Cemetery will be plowed. Otherwise, the Cemetery will just be opened up and plowed more thoroughly the next day.

G. Minikel said that some City lots are important to be plowed. There are many lots with leased parking as well as the necessity to accommodate efficient snow hauling in the downtown removal areas.

K. Glaeser said that the work will get done, but sometimes it will be more difficult than others. D. Soeldner voiced appreciation for the cooperation that has taken place.

Discussion and possible action regarding encroachments on the unimproved right-of-way between Remiker and Elmer Lane

G. Minikel wanted to discuss the encroachments with the Committee.

The current issues came to light when Dan Reimer called about the trees being buried in the berm. The City Surveyor checked and determined that a portion of the berm is indeed within the street Right-of-Way (R/W). The trees appear to be part on private property and part on the City R/W.

G. Minikel stated that he had discussions with Dean Schultz regarding the construction of the berm and the importance of keeping the entire berm on his property. This did not happen.

If we are going to request Mr. Schultz to move his berm, then we will need to enforce other encroachments in the area as well. D. Soeldner thought the berm was part of the Conditional Use Permit.

G. Minikel stated that another option would be to allow the encroachments to remain and have the property owners execute a Sidewalk Privilege Agreement.

G. Minikel mentioned putting the homeowners with encroachments on notice. D. Soeldner didn't want to open up more issues and complaints.

The Committee decided to discuss at a later date. D. Soeldner wanted to discuss the access issue only with the City Attorney and potentially bring back to the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) Grant Funding Submittal for the Proposed 2013 reconstruction of Dewey Street from S. 26th Street to approx. 400 feet west of S. 39th Street

G. Minikel requested permission to submit the grant application. G. Minikel stated that the sidewalk on the north side of Dewey Street will need to be moved further north and approximately 20 trees will have to be removed as well to provide room for the wider street with the two-way left turn lane (same typical section that was built by Festival Foods). The Committee needs to decide if a bike lane should be included in the design or not as this is required by the DOT under their "Complete Streets" initiative. There are boxes to be checked on the grant forms

relating to bicycle facilities and we were looking for direction from the Committee for completing the forms.

G. Minikel explained to Alex Olson that the street will be widened and a center turn lane will be added. Bikes can be accommodated on the existing sidewalks through this entire corridor, but the DOT may not give us the LRIP money if there are no actual bike lanes.

The extra pavement width (approx. 4 feet) required for the bike lanes will cost approximately \$40,000.

D. Soeldner questioned if we should consider moving this project back a couple more years. He wanted to know if there are continuous maintenance costs that are occurring, as he didn't feel Dewey Street was as bad as some of the other streets throughout the City.

G. Minikel reminded the Committee that this street was paved in 1980 and has not met the 40 year life expectancy under our current Municipal Code special assessment policies and therefore any assessments prior to 2020 will be on a prorated basis.

J. Sladky and J. Brey said they aren't interested in the bike lane. The Committee doesn't feel it is safe to include a bike lane on Dewey Street.

G. Minikel said we will continue to design and potentially meet with business owners.

Alex Olson made a motion to apply for the Grant without the bike lane. J. Sladky seconded the motion.

The Engineering Dept. will move forward with applying for the grant without the bike lane and will find out if the existing LRIP funds for the east end of Dewey Street (S. 10th to S. 18th St.) can be transferred to this project as well.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action regarding Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Grants for Stormwater ponds at Dewey Street, N. Rapids Rd, Dufek Drive and Rheume Park

G. Minikel explained that this was FYI only. We received information from the DNR that the 4 ponds we submitted all ranked high (within the top 20). However, the DNR has not determined the amount of funding for this grant cycle. Hopefully, we will find out before the end of the year what grants will be funded/received. The Engineering Dept. would like the Committee to seriously consider building the stormwater ponds at S. 35th and Dewey St. and at Dufek and West Dr. as these ponds would be very beneficial for future development. It is anticipated that construction would take place in 2013. Once the funding is determined

the DNR will send the City paperwork to enter to into the agreement if the Council decides to move forward with the grant funded project.

Discussion and possible action regarding the Calvary Cemetery Sign

V. Mellon reminded the Committee that this was discussed last year and it was decided then that the DPW will remove the asphalt driveway and replace with topsoil, as this was closed off with the reconstruction of Viebahn Street intersection. The Calvary Cemetery has requested for the City to provide them a sign to be installed and seen from S. 10th & Viebahn Street.

G. Minikel said that this request was generated by their inconvenience from losing their driveway access when we repaved the intersection.

D. Soeldner said the driveway shouldn't have been there in the first place.

J. Brey made a motion to deny the request for installation of a sign.
J. Sladky seconded the Motion.

D. Soeldner clarified that we should restore the 30 feet of removed pavement with topsoil, but that seed and restoration must be provided by the Cemetery.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.



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