

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

November 14, 2011
6:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner (arrived at 6:43)
Jason Sladky
Allan Schema

STAFF PRESENT

Val Mellon
Greg Minikel
Sonja Birr
Mike Huck
Kathleen McDaniel

OTHERS

Michael Check
Pastor Ron O'Bryon

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Brey
Alex Olson

Approval of the Minutes from 10/24/11

J. Sladky made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2011 meeting, A. Schema seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action regarding a snow removal complaint for Cornerstone Baptist Church

D. Soeldner introduced Pastor Ron O'Bryon and allowed him time to present his appeal for the snow removal invoice from the 2010-2011 snow season. The Pastor informed the Committee that they contract Vinton Construction and a neighbor to do the snow removal on their sidewalk for the Cornerstone Baptist Church. He said that they did not receive a letter informing them of their violation, but did receive an invoice for the snow removal that was done by the City. Pastor O'Bryon said that their mail gets delivered to Menominee Falls and this address is incorrect. He said the church provides meals and financial assistance to many families within the Community. He said they would be willing to pay for the service provided, but thought the money could be used to help another family.

D. Soeldner said that this was sent to the wrong address, which did not allow the 3 day notice that we typically allow the property owner.

Kathleen McDaniel said that if this was sent to the wrong address it might be reason to dismiss the invoice; however, the Pastor has a responsibility to update the new mailing address with the City Assessors office. The City can't change records without proper authorization. In the State Law, a violation letter was sent to where it was suppose to be sent, according to the City records. An address is linked by the parcel. D. Soeldner agreed that obviously someone set up this mailing address at one time.

J. Sladky made a motion to reduce the amount of the invoice to \$150. A. Schema seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously. The Pastor was provided the phone number for the Assessors Office to change the mailing address.

No further discussion.

Discussion and possible action of proposed Resolution governing the maintenance of stormwater ponds in private subdivisions

Kathleen McDaniel said that she would like more specific "framework" before the City approves taking over the development ponds. It would be beneficial to look at all the DNR and City Ordinance requirements. She previously met with the City Stormwater Aide, Janet Sosnosky, to discuss what areas need to be included in the Resolution and the ponds must meet certain criteria before the City will take ownership. For example, the City doesn't want to be stuck with a pond that needs immediate dredging.

G. Minikel said that the pond requirements listed in the proposed resolution are not new and had been previously discussed with the Committee about a year ago. We want to have clarity as to the condition of the ponds that we will take over. City staff is also looking for direction from the Committee on how the pond maintenance will be funded annually.

G. Minikel said this could be part of the 2012 or future budgets to include the maintenance costs for these ponds. The initial costs mainly include mowing.

D. Soeldner reminded the Committee that the previous communication was passed through the Streets Committee on a 3-2 vote. The Resolution needs to be discussed to clarify the requirements proposed by the City including the discussion of potential costs and how this would be funded

D. Soeldner we will need to place the original document on file and discuss the proposed Resolution at the next Council meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding budgeted overtime related to 2011/2012 snow plowing

D. Soeldner recommended this discussion for the purpose of clarification and direction to use the Budget Bill to cut overtime costs more significantly.

M. Huck reported the budget vs actual figures for the past 5 years. The budget for 2012 has been cut from \$120,000 down to \$100,000 in anticipation of less overtime.

V. Mellon said that they are intending to do all they can and will make it a priority to meet after each storm to discuss ways to improve. She informed the Committee that 90 percent of the storms are small and only the salters are called out. Storms are hard to predict and due to the timing of the snow some overtime will still incur.

D. Soeldner said that the management decision making has been fine, and he trusts the managers to do all they can to cut costs. He would like to see the hours not to exceed 40 and if it's not snowing and other priorities have been met then send home employees early on a Friday.

G. Minikel said we usually need to maintain a minimum staff level of services including sewer maintenance and traffic control in addition to equipment and material maintenance.

M. Huck reminded the Committee that the salt drivers are also skilled workers utilized for other duties. He thought in late January when the winter punch lists are complete, the overtime will be easier to maintain.

V. Mellon assured the Committee that they will be evaluating the storms and calling in plow operators as efficiently as possible and will look for ways to minimize overtime. One of the best ways is to pre-apply the anti-icing and we are still hopeful that equipment will remain in 2012 budget.

Allan Schema said the County sends the operators home earlier on Fridays to cut costs.

M. Huck said we know we will save on overtime, we just don't know how much at this time.

There is still some uncertainty of the work rules as far as call-in on the weekends.

Discussion and possible action of snow removal special assessments

Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action on 5-Year Capital Public Works Plan

D. Soeldner would like to take a look at tightening up some of the Capital Works Projects to submit a comprehensive financial plan and our intentions on bonding for projects before the end of the year to change Moody's outlook on the City. He thought some of the stormwater issues could be changed.

G. Minikel distributed a copy of the 5-Year Plan to the Committee members. He said that typically this is modified in the summer and presented to the Committee. D. Soeldner is aware that this Capital Works Plan isn't part of the 2012 budget.

G. Minikel stated that there are 2 ponds that we would like to request continued support from the Committee for inclusion into future budgets and bonding. Those ponds are located at S. 35th/Dewey Street and Dufek Dr./West Dr. Both of these ponds would be beneficial for future development within those areas of the City. He also mentioned the \$25,000 payment that the City received from Oak Park Developers (Check's) in 2007, which was a payment in-lieu of stormwater pond construction

for Woodridge Subd. No. 6. The City is proposing to build a regional pond on the south side of Albert Drive within Indian Creek Park, which would take the stormwater from that subdivision as well as other areas.

D. Soeldner asked if the underground detention pond at Wilson bowl could be included with the DOT project on Waldo Blvd. G. Minikel thought that the DOT would include it in their project and any water draining down Waldo Blvd. He stated that we believe that the DOT will pay for a portion of the underground detention pond, we are just not sure yet how much. Those discussions with the DOT will start in 2012.

D. Soeldner tabled further discussion until a full Committee is present.

Discussion and possible action on Cemetery Commission recommendation regarding Evergreen Fee Structure

J. Sladky requested this be included on the agenda to update the Committee of the proposed fee structure that was discussed at the Cemetery Commission. He said they would like to bring our fees in-line with the Knollwood and Calvary (private) cemeteries and discussed the increases. The proposed changes would generate \$54,706 in Revenue. He said he would provide copies to the Committee to take action during Council.

Discussion and possible action regarding potential land acquisition for the new sidewalk along N. 8th St. from Indian Creek Drive to the RR Crossing North of Magnolia Ave. (DOT's Safe Routes to School Project)

G. Minikel informed the Committee that we need to acquire more right-of-way (R/W) (in front of 2 properties) in order to have the proper setback for the sidewalk, which would provide adequate snow storage and not just curbside sidewalk. Our proposal is to obtain a 17 foot wide strip, which would match the Official Map Right-of-Way width.

The main concern is from Albert Drive to the north for 2 lots (approx. 300 feet). Curbside sidewalk might not be possible due to the narrow R/W width. The City owned land (Indian Creek Park) would need to be dedicated and a Right-of-Way plat would be required. We received a quote from SMI and the cost was \$2,500 for the preparation of the R/W Plat. The actual purchase of the land would have to follow the DOT process and the City Attorney would need to work on that. He estimates the land acquisition cost to be in the area of \$5,000, but we will not know for sure until we have an appraisal.

D. Soeldner questioned the issue of crossing the river. G. Minikel said it would be an additional cost if we needed to design a pedestrian bridge. The City is currently providing the DOT with alternatives.

D. Soeldner said even though this is a State funded project he is getting worried about all the additional fees.

G. Minikel said that he is waiting to hear back from the DOT's project management consultant. He was looking for Committee support and will

bring back when we hear more.

The Committee recommended finding out our options, are the sellers willing to work with the city. J. Sladky asked about putting the sidewalk on the other side of the street.

G. Minikel will find out more and bring back to a future meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding The Club on Waldo Blvd requesting some monetary award for the City snow fence that is installed on their property

V. Mellon explained that she met with the new owners and they have agreed to allow the City to install snow fence on their property; however, they were wondering if they could get some sort of compensation such as a break in their property tax bill for their development.

V. Mellon said at the meeting with Chris Foresta and Ed Feller, she showed them a list of other private properties that the City installs snow fence and do not compensate. They understood, but asked if it could be discussed at the Committee anyway.

Allan Schema said he has not heard of compensating to install snow fence.

D. Soeldner said we should find out what they want in terms of compensation and thought perhaps we should find out if WisDOT mandates this and/or will participate.

The snow fence provides blockage to the snow from blowing out onto the State Highway and causing the plows to maintain more frequently.

V. Mellon explained the gap in the snow fence that we provided to allow for proper drainage to the inlet.

J. Sladky made a motion to deny the request for compensation. A. Schema seconded the motion.

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