

CITY OF STEVENS POINT

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

Monday, February 9, 2015
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Wescott, Comptroller/Treasurer (C/T) Corey Ladick, Director of Public Works Scott Schatschneider and Tricia Church; **Alderspersons:** George Doxtator(1st), Hans Walther(2nd), Michael O'Meara(3rd), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), and Randal Stroik(9th).

ALSO PRESENT:

DIRECTORS: Michael Ostrowski – Community Development, Joel Lemke – Public Utilities and Tom Schrader – Parks and Recreation.

ALDERPERSONS: Mike Wiza(4th), Mary Stroik(5th), Roger Trzebiatowski(7th), Tony Patton(8th), Mike Phillips(10th), and Jerry Moore(11th).

CITY STAFF MEMBERS: City Attorney A. Logan Beveridge, City Clerk John Moe, Police Dept. Tony Babl, Fire Chief Bob Finn, Streets Superintendent Dennis Laidlaw, and Deputy C/T Carrie Freeberg.

OTHERS PRESENT: Nate Enwald – P.C. Gazette, Brandi Makuski – Stevens Point City Times, Barb Jacob – 1616 Depot Street, Lloyd Graff – 1240 Edgewood Avenue, Shawn Morrow – 2509 Falcon Cove, Norman Strojny – Town of Hull, Bob Fisch – 1033 Smith Street, Neil Prendergast – 1924 Plover Street, Mary McComb – 2100 Elk Street, Bob Larson – 3283 Lindbergh Avenue, MyKayla Hilgart – The Pointer, Matt Pacyna – SRF Consulting, Mike Kretschmer and Jeff Stewart – WisDOT.

Mayor Gary Wescott called the Board of Public Works meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. on February 9, 2015. The meeting was held at The Lincoln Center located at 1519 Water Street in Stevens Point, WI 54481.

1. Consideration and possible action to accept the Director's Report and place it on file.

Director Schatschneider asked if Director Lemke could update the Board of Public Works and Common Council on what is going on with the IT. Director Lemke reported that after recent talks with staff, the next step is to assess by department to identify the obvious gaps that need to be filled and evaluate if they can be filled better by services or by staff.

Aldersperson Stroik moved approval; seconded by Aldersperson Slowinski to accept the Director's Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Consideration and possible planning action for the existing electronic message board at Fire Station #1.

Director Schatschneider did a PowerPoint Presentation to explain some ideas regarding different placement options along with cost to get the discussions rolling at the committee level.

Please visit our website to view the PowerPoint slides and view the presentation.

Aldersperson Slowinski asked if we had looked at selling the sign. Director Schatschneider stated that is an option that could be explored if we cannot find an ideal location within the city.

Mayor Wescott directed the board the last paragraph in the Director's memo and asked to have some consensus to at least shut the message board down until we develop a recommended solution.

Aldersperson Stroik voiced his concerns on shutting our sign down. He feels if we are going to single out our sign because it is too distracting to drivers that maybe we should also be looking at other businesses within the city that have reader boards and make ordinance changes.

Mayor Wescott feels our sign is more distracting than other reader boards within the city because of the intersection ours is at and because it is at ground level. He feels, given the volume of pedestrians and students that are almost hidden behind it as they advance into the intersection that it would be best to shut it down until we can develop a solution.

Aldersperson Walther echoed what Mayor Wescott stated. He also feels that the City has the responsibility to provide for public safety and since it is city property and a city owned reader board, he also feels we should shut it down until we can develop a solution.

Aldersperson Wiza asked what we have made on the sign since it has been up and running. Director Schatschneider said we spent \$24,500.00 in 2009 to put the reader board in and since it has been up and running, the city brought in \$13,728.00.

Aldersperson O'Meara moved approval to authorize the city staff to proceed with disconnecting the message board the middle of February, 2015 and to continue looking for relocation areas; seconded by Aldersperson Walther.

Aldersperson Slowinski agreed that it should be moved but also wanted staff to look into the value of the sign so we can explore the option of selling it also.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Consideration and possible action regarding the discussion of the City's current snow and ice policy.

Director Schatschneider along with the Streets Superintendent Dennis Laidlaw went through a PowerPoint Presentation to explain the snow and ice policy that the Streets Department currently follows.

Please visit our website to view the PowerPoint slides and watch the presentation.

Director Schatschneider asked Dennis Laidlaw to explain the new brine spreader and how it is working for our streets crews. He explained that this is one of the few opportunities we have to get ahead of a storm or use a proactive approach before a storm instead of a reactive approach during or after a storm. He explained that with brine the idea is to melt from the bottom up versus with salt from the top down. It keeps the snow from binding to the road and we use about 1/6 the amount of salt with it.

Director Schatschneider went on to explain our salt routes, sand routes, snow plow routes, plowing of parking lots and sidewalks. After the routes are done, the snow picking procedure can begin.

Dennis Laidlaw was asked to explain the snow picking procedure. He explained that a grader will throw snow off the top of the curb and come back again to pull it away from the curb then a large loader with a snow blower blows it from the street into the back of a dump truck and the truck hauls it away.

Mayor Wescott asked if Dennis Laidlaw could explain the threshold part of the snow policy. Dennis Laidlaw explained that depending on temperature and the rate snow is coming down, it is all a judgment call. There are things that need to be assessed depending on what is predicted.

Mayor Wescott added that after hours there is a partnership that exists between the Streets Department Crews and the Police Department. Director Schatschneider explained that the shift commander from the Police Department will contact Dispatch if the conditions on the city roads are unsafe and dispatch will streets crews directly from the current Streets Department Call List that is in the policy.

Aldersperson Slowinski moved to approve the snow policy and place it on file; Seconded by Aldersperson O'Meara.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

4. Presentation/discussion by WisDOT to the Board of Public Works and Common Council regarding the design of STH 66/IH 39 Interchange.

Jeff Stewart with WisDOT out of Wisconsin Rapids went through a PowerPoint Presentation to explain the design concepts of the I-39/WIS 66/Stanley Street Interchange.

Please visit our website to view the PowerPoint slides and presentation by WisDOT or visit WisDOT website to view the PowerPoint slides and other meeting discussions.

Jeff Stewart started by explaining the many reasons this interchange needs work, one is that the bridge clearance is not up to current WisDOT standards. Also, northbound traffic coming off I39 has significant delays with backups during peak hours. Another reason is because there are current issues with how close Green Avenue and North Point Drive are to the intersection. Also, there are no bike and pedestrian accommodations.

Jeff Stewart went on to explained the different alternatives that are being looked and stated the preferred alternative they are seeking is the roundabouts so that full access for all movements can be kept. He also added with the roundabout alternative they would be able to put in a park and ride at the airport.

Aldersperson Stroik agreed that the triple roundabout alternative makes the most sense at this intersection. He added that the more he travels to other areas that use roundabouts; he feels they are not as bad as the perception this community gives them.

There were no motions needed for this Agenda item.

- 5. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Gary Wescott adjourned the February 9, 2015 Board of Public Works Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**