

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Board of Public Works

Monday, November 9, 2009

Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St.

Present: Chairman Mayor Andrew Halverson, C/T John Schlice, Interim Director Alex Saunders and Tricia Church; Alderpersons: Tom Mallison (1st), Hans Walther(2nd), Michael O'Meara(3rd), Roger Trzebiatowski(7th), and Brian Brooks(10th).

Also Present: DIRECTORS: Tom Schrader, Kim Halverson and John Gardner. CITY STAFF MEMBERS: Attorney Louis Molepske, Clerk John Moe, Deputy Comptroller/Treasurer Carrie Freeberg, Human Resource Manager Lisa Jakusz, Police Chief Kevin Ruder, Assessor Jim Siebers, Water Dept. Joel Lemke, Human Resources Manager Lisa Jakusz, Airport Manager Joe Wheeler. OTHERS PRESENT: Gene Kemmeter - PC Gazette, Reid Rocheleau, MaryAnn Laszewski, Jeremy Beaudry, Tony Patton, Mildred Neville, Andrew Letson. ALDERPERSONS: Mike Wiza (4th), Mary Stroik(5th), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), Marge Molski(8th), Randy Stroik(9th), and Jerry Moore(11th).

Mayor Halverson called the meeting of the Board of Public Works to order on November 9, 2009 at 6:15 PM. The meeting was held at The Lincoln Center Conference Room, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Index of these Minutes:

1. Parking Meter Report for October 2009. A) Meter/Permit Collection B) Permits
 2. Consideration/Action for Traffic Study #TS-12-09; for No Parking from 8:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M on the east side of Water Street from a point 75 feet north of Main Street to the intersection of Main Street and Water Street.
 3. Presentation on snow and ice removal.
 4. Presentation on Roadway and Utility Conditions in the city.
 5. Airport Manager's Report.
 6. Director's Report. A) Engineering B) Streets
 7. Adjournment.
1. Parking Meter Report for October, 2009
A) Meter/Permit Collection
B) Permits

There was no discussion regarding the October, 2009 Parking Meter Report.

C/T Schlice moved; seconded by Alderperson Mallison to accept the October, 2009 Parking Meter Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Consideration/Action for Traffic Study #TS-12-09; for No Parking from 8:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. on the east side of Water Street from a point 75 feet north of Main Street to the intersection of Main Street and Water Street

Mayor Halverson explained that this was a recalibration of the late night bus drop off area in front of the Scarabocchio Art Museum along Water Street. This would open up parking during the daytime hours.

Alderperson Brooks made a motion to approve the Traffic Study #TS-12-09 as written; seconded by Alderperson O'Meara.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Presentation from Dennis Laidlaw regarding winter snow and ice removal.

Dennis brought in the most current plow and sand and salt route maps and commented that this was presented last year but is the third incarnation because it is always changing to account for changes, such as; jurisdictional transfers, lane miles, parking, etc. The routes have been reviewed and adjusted time and again. The Police Department has always been the Streets Departments eyes on the off hours and will continue to do so. We are about half full in our new salt facility, formerly we were limited to about 1,600 tons and now we are over 5,000 tons of storage. Salt prices last year were up 18% and this year we are seeing a 38% increase. We are looking into alternatives such as a pre-treated product called Thawrox, which is a treated salt. Another product application is using a brine solution is being investigated but that would require some equipment investment.

Mayor Halverson asked Dennis to explain how the routes are chosen in terms of traffic volume and importance of emergency vehicles. Dennis explained that the primary factor is traffic count and emergency facilities. The area is also something that is considered with the amount of equipment that we have. There also are a few areas we plow sooner than others just because there are hills and other features involved that are almost impossible to navigate if we don't. Traffic patterns, traffic volumes, heavy populated areas and different times of the day require different attacks. Every snow fall is different from the next and is challenging. We may have another challenge this year with H1N1 and are starting to cross train some at the Parks Department. All the routes are set up so that once we make the pass of the A Route, which is about a three hour process; everyone should be within about four blocks of a plowed road.

Mayor Halverson asked Dennis to explain how the approach is different from an elongated snow fall vs. a short term snow fall. Dennis explained the ideal snow fall is that it falls right now and within eight hours the whole city is cleaned. When it snows for an elongated amount of time, we shift our plan of attack and at some point have to rotate people out so people can go home and rest. We always try to keep the A Routes clear then go to the B Routes and it may be before we are done with the B Routes, we may have to have some trucks fall back onto the A Routes again. When the A Routes are done for the second time, we go back to where we left off on the B Route and so on. We split up the plow trucks to try to keep up.

Alderperson Mallison asked if we could try to stay as diligent as we can to make sure that the roads are not narrowing, especially the roads that are already narrow. Dennis commented that is a good point on two levels and went on to explain that when we first attack a storm, we look at getting the roads passable. If we get several events over a few days and we get an inch of snow one day, we may leave the C Routes. Then say we get another inch of snow the next day and we do the A and B Routes again and then we get another inch the next day. Now there is over a couple inches on the side roads then we'll go in and clean up after a few days and then widen the roads that we have made passable. On top of that, we have picking routes where we go in and remove the snow. We also rely on the Police Department where it becomes a visual safety issue.

Alderperson Trzebiatowski questioned if we are still letting the public use sand and salt to clear some walkways. Dennis answered yes, we have always made sand with a little bit of salt mixture available that is a 5% mixture. It's available on a limited basis, not by the truck load but maybe a 5-gallon bucket or around there.

Alderson O'Meara commented that he feels that not only the vehicle traffic but also pedestrian traffic is of equal importance especially at the intersections and asked that the city ensure sidewalks are cleared on pedestrian routes as well.

4. Presentation from Alex Saunders and Kim Halverson on Roadway and Utility Conditions in the city. Asphalt Paver Manual | PowerPoint Presentation

Interim Director Saunders took the podium to do a PowerPoint Presentation to explain the problems we have with our roadways. In the slides he showed the Paver Rating system that we are going by through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He showed slides that show the percentage of our roads vs. the rating they have. He explained that to do a mile of reconstruction on a typical rural road with no curb and gutter it would cost us roughly \$257,000.00. To do a 1" mill and overlay on that same mile of road it would cost us \$72,000.00. To do a sealcoat on that same mile of road it would cost us roughly \$20,000.00. He explained that means about every dollar we spend on maintenance now to keep us at the top saves us ten dollars in reconstruction costs. We need to have a good balance in a pavement management program. Doing overlays and sealcoating is just as important as getting some reconstruction work done to keep up with our roads. He explained the construction that is tentatively on our list for 2010 and the history of those roads and the reasons why they are on the list.

Director Kim Halverson took the podium to update and explain with a PowerPoint Presentation on the problems we face with the sanitary sewer system and water main in our city. In January 2008 the city sanitary collection system was transferred from the Public Works Department to the Waste Water Department and the assets involved were roughly 17 million dollars. If you combine those assets with the existing assets of the waste water treatment plant, total assets for the entire department are close to 40 million dollars. That is a huge amount of infrastructure that needs to be maintained and upgraded continually and rates need to be adjusted to accomplish that. The aging of our collection system poses the most challenging situation for the city at this time. Currently, approximately 27% or 37 miles out of 139 miles of sanitary sewer mains consist of clay pipe that was installed between 1930 and 1960. She went on to explain further with actual pictures shown on the screen from her presentation. If we replaced a mile of clay pipe each year it would take us 37 years to get it all done and we can't afford to wait that long.

5. Airport Manager's Report.

There were no updates or discussion regarding the Airport Manager's Report.

C/T Schlice moved; seconded by Alderson Brooks to accept the Airport Manager's Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

6. Director's Report.

Interim Director added that Fourth Avenue is paved and the final walk through later this week. Patch Street is paved at least on the surface on Industrial Park Drive and today they were working at the intersections. City crews are going to do the shouldering on that project. The S.J. Louis portion of the contract (which is from the lift station to the east) is anticipated to be completed by the end of this week or early next week and then we will work on punch list items. They will have to come back in the spring to address any seeding issues. Our paving contracts are wrapping up for this year. The emergency generator is going to be delivered at Fire Station #1 tomorrow, November 10th.

Alderson O'Meara moved; seconded by Alderson Walther to accept the Director's Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Halverson adjourned the November 9, 2009 Board of Public Works meeting at 7:10 P.M.

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