

Meeting Minutes

CITY OF STEVENS POINT

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2000 - 6:10 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wescott, C/T Schlice; Alderpersons Barr, Kedrowski, Molski, Nealis, Walther

**ALSO PRESENT:** Director Van Alstine, Superintendent of Services Krieski, Clerk Zdroik, Assessor Kuehn, Director Gardner, Attorney Molepske, Personnel Specialist Jakusz, Mayoral Assistant Marciniak, Captain Dowling, Administrator Disher, Peggy Rentz, Tom Ludwig, Mike Jacquart, Scott Krueger, Gene Kemmeter; Alderpersons Moore, Pazdernik, Phillips, Rackow, Seiser, Sevenich

**1. PARKING METER REPORT (ATTACHMENT- AGENDA PACKET)**

Mayor Wescott presented the November 2000 Parking Meter Report. C/T Schlice moved, seconded by Alderperson Walther to accept the November 2000 Parking Meter Report and place it on file.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

**2. TRAFFIC STUDY #00-11-A: INSTALL STOP SIGN-WEST BOUND ON MARIA DRIVE AT FOREST STREET NORTH (ATTACHMENT- AGENDA PACKET)**

Mayor Wescott referred to the traffic study that had been prepared by Sergeant Carlson and Director Van Alstine.

Alderperson Molski moved, seconded by Alderperson Nealis to approve Traffic Study Number 00-11-A to install a stop sign west bound on Maria Drive at Forest Street North.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

**3. RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ON TAMARAC STREET AT WISCONSIN CENTRAL RAILROAD (ATTACHMENT- AGENDA PACKET)**

Mayor Wescott said Plan Commission had voted to recommend approval of the purchase.

C/T Schlice moved, seconded by Alderperson Nealis to recommend approval of the purchase of the property on Tamarac Street at Wisconsin Central Railroad and refer the item to the Finance Committee.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

**4. REQUEST FOR SEWER SERVICE BOUNDARY AMENDMENT APPROXIMATELY 20 ACRES - RESERVE STREET AND DUBAY AVENUE (ATTACHMENT)**

Mayor Wescott said Plan Commission had voted to pursue the amendment of the sewer service district to include this area and the City Attorney had advised him to bring this before the Board.

Director Gardner said it would be his recommendation to request that the County add this to the sewer service district.

C/T Schlice moved, seconded by Alderperson Molski to make a request to Portage County that they amend the sewer service boundary to include the area as shown on the map, approximately 20 acres - Reserve Street and DuBay Avenue.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

**5. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION CONCERNING ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY.**

The Mayor said this is an informational discussion, action will be taken in January.

Attorney Molepske said we will be required to amend an ordinance as it relates to our Sewer and Water Utility. He went over the history of the present ordinance saying it had been changed several times to allow increased spending without Council approval until finally they had an unlimited amount. He also said he had noted that Committee or Council had rarely changed anything the utility did.

He said if we do not create a new ordinance by State Statute, the water and sewer utility will become autonomous and they can do anything they want. He said we might want to have the current commission continue with the day to day workings but decisions will have to come back to the Council with the Board of Public Works as the governing body. It would be similar to the Housing Authority and Community Development application. He said nothing would change on the day to day operations, they would bring their report once a month before the Board of Public Works to approve or deny, the utility commission would make that report. Or he said we could let them become an autonomous agency and if the Council didn't agree with their actions they could disband it. He said the easiest way would be to continue as before on the day to day operations but the Board of Public Works would have the final authority as it relates to them. The utility commission would be advisory and the Board supervisory.

Mayor Wescott said although he agrees with Attorney Molepske, he feels we have a high level of commitment and involvement now and asked why the report would have to come to the Board of Public Works and not the Common Council. He said there are decisions that have a City wide impact and he felt these should be going to all the Alderpersons instead of just the five on the Board of Public Works. He said what we have works and preferred an ordinance that would keep it that way.

**Attorney Molepske said he didn't think that could be done, that the Legislature made it the Board of Public Works or by another officer or office by statute.** He said they go out of their way to say this instead of governing body. He felt this included more than Alderpersons.

Discussion followed regarding who would be responsible for such things as spending, and personnel issues such as chain of command and hiring and firing. Also discussed was the possibility of modifying the Board. The consensus was that the City needs to keep the control we now have over the utility commission.

It was suggested that the City attorney provide a breakdown of what the Board would be responsible for and what of those decisions the Common Council can change or modify. Also who would be responsible for what, regarding spending and personnel, basically clarify the chain of command. The Mayor said he encouraged the Alderpersons to make themselves familiar with what this statute requires the City to change regarding the water and sewer utility. He suggested they contact the City Attorney.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SERVICES REPORT (ATTACHMENT-AGENDA PACKET)**

Superintendent Krieski presented his report and added that when there is a two-inch or more snow fall the entire City is plowed, anything under that the main arteries are cleared. He also said the temperature plays a major part in determining whether salt or sand is used or a mixture of both. He went on to say when a storm hits and how long it is predicted to last determine when the crews are sent out. He said if there are frequent snow falls in a short amount of time, it is difficult to keep the plows out because if the operators are out all night and it snows again the next day, there will be no one to remove that snow.

Alderperson Walther said he had received phone calls from constituents along Stanley off of Michigan where there are no boulevards and the snow is plowed onto their sidewalks.

Superintendent Krieski said those areas are always a problem and the snowplow operators are told to slow down and stay a little away from the curb. He also said if they call and we are responsible we will clean that snow off their sidewalk.

He said when we have to use the call-out list it is by seniority, therefore we might on occasion have snow plow operators that are not as experienced as others. He also said we do like to keep as close to the curb as possible when removing snow in order to keep the streets as wide as we can in case we have a winter with a great deal of snow.

C/T Schlice moved, seconded by Mayor Wescott to accept the November 2000 Superintendent of Services Report and place it on file.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

**7. DIRECTOR S REPORT (ATTACHMENT-AGENDA PACKET)**

Mayor Wescott said in addition to the Director's Report he wanted to remind everyone there is a neighborhood meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 12 at P.J. Jacobs Junior High School at 6:30 p.m. This will be to cover phase 2 of the Highway 10 project for 2001.

Alderperson Phillips asked if the railroad had received another extension for the installation of gates past the last extension of December 31.

The Mayor said as far as he knew they have not, we would have been notified in writing.

Assistant Marciniak said he will follow up with a phone call.

Aldersperson Phillips asked to have the information for the Council Meeting.

**C/T Schlice moved, seconded by Mayor Wescott to accept the November 2000 Director s Report and place it on file.**

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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