

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING
Monday, August 11, 2011
Water Department – 300 Bliss Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Mayor Andrew Halverson, Comptroller/Treasurer (C/T) John Schlice, Director Joel Lemke and Tricia Church; Alderpersons: JoAnne Suomi(2nd), Michael O'Meara(3rd), Roger Trzebiatowski(7th), Randal Stroik(9th), and Brian Brooks(10th).

ALSO

PRESENT: **DIRECTORS:** Tom Schrader, Michael Ostrowski and Kim Halverson.
CITY STAFF MEMBERS: City Clerk John Moe, City Assessor Jim Siebers, Mayoral Assistant Kelley Pazdernik.
ALDERPERSONS: Mary Stroik(5th), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), Marge Molski(8th).
OTHERS PRESENT: Matthew Brown - Gazette, Brian Kawalski - Stevens Point Journal, Kurt Schoen – AECOM, Armin Nebel – 1100 Philips Street, Dylan McHugh – 2000 McCulloch Street.

Mayor Halverson called the Board of Public Works meeting to order on August 8, 2011 at 7:19 P.M. The meeting was held at The Water Department Conference Room, 300 Bliss Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

1. Consideration and possible action to accept the 2011-12 Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Orders (attachment)

C/T Schlice moved approval; seconded by Alderperson O'Meara to accept the 2011-12 Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Orders.

Alderperson Trzebiatowski asked if we ever did a sidewalk study. Director Lemke said that it is being done through the bike and pedestrian plan county wide at this time.

Alderperson Stroik asked if we could publish somehow ahead of time when we are putting together the sidewalk contract and offer for the public to contact the Engineering Department so it can be added to the contract for that year. It would be nice if the public could take advantage of better pricing through the city contract. Director Lemke said we could look at it but a big reason we have not is because the total expenditure of the contract would put us behind for other projects. Meaning, If we get ourselves into too large of a contract it will affect the total dollars we can spend on other contract projects. For that reason, we try to address the areas that have potential hazards or safety issues.

C/T Schlice said we could look more into it if we could set it up where the homeowner pays the City back within the same year it is taken out of the levee.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Consideration and possible action to approve the Traffic Study #TS-08-11 for No Parking on the west side of Illinois Avenue from a point 428 feet south of Maria Drive to a point 641 feet south of Maria Drive (attachment)

There was no discussion, comments or questions regarding the Traffic Study.

Aldersperson O'Meara moved to accept the Traffic Study #TS-08-11; seconded by Aldersperson Stroik.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Discussion on the storm water system.

Director Lemke wanted to touch on a few items prior to item #4 to give some informational facts regarding our storm water system. The storm mains in town are between 10 and 120 inches in diameter and 63 total miles and just fewer than 1,500 storm manholes. We have a three man crew dedicated to the repair and maintenance of catch basins and storm structures. Two full time men are about nine months out of a year full time street sweeping. With that, there are several things that are not getting done or to the extent that they should.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski is pleased that we are taking this approach and stated in 2009 this was a very hot topic at the APWA Convention. One thing that would happen in a storm water utility district is that current tax exempt properties that are heavy users with all their hard surface areas would be required to pay their fair share. When creating a storm water district, we could focus on incentives for various businesses, houses or industries to do rain gardens or retention systems to alleviate the load.

Aldersperson O'Meara feels this is a good idea if we have 63 miles of storm sewer at about a half million dollars a mile for a total of about thirty million dollars, it would really be worthwhile to have a full time crew to do regular maintenance like root cutting and cleaning.

Director Lemke spoke of an example. While Patch Street was under construction, they did some cleaning and ended up taking 9 to 11 truckloads of sand out of the storm pipe preventing us from getting any televised data.

Mayor Halverson added that when we had over 3 inches of rain in an hour, there were a lot of places that flooded that never had flooding before. It is much easier for us to complain about the pavement that we ride on than to complain about the infrastructure that we do not see. We need to start engaging in storm water management in the same way we are going about maintaining our sanitary sewer system.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski asked if we can use the camera we purchased for the sewer systems about six years ago to look at the storm sewer systems in areas where we had flooding as a start in investigating and mapping. Director Lemke said the issue with that is that it is an enormous task to get to the point where we could get a good feel for the state of our storm infrastructure.

4. Consideration and possible action to approve a contract with AECOM of Stevens Point for further evaluation of items related to the creation of a fee structure for the storm water system (attachment)

Director Lemke gave an overview of what has been done to date. AECOM did a study in October 2008 and this contract would update the data collection study and get things in place for making a utility possible.

Aldersperson O'Meara questioned on what basis we will be collecting levee fees. He said there are many different formulas that could be used and it should be analyzed in this study. We want to make sure that we are properly disbursing the costs so the people who are generating the expenses are also generating the revenues. He also feels we should set it up where we offer an incentive to encourage people to reduce the load on the system before building.

Mayor Halverson added that we also need to be cautious when we look at a levee system so we do not create a fee structure that is anti-business.

Aldersperson O'Meara feels that if a business is planning ahead, the incremental cost would not be that great. The idea would be to find ways to give credits to people doing designs that limits the fees. Director Lemke added that one of the things that we are looking at is getting more refined data. The distribution of the current cost for the storm water system is estimated to be covered 52% by residential and 48% by commercial and industrial. It is the intention to address all these items in the study.

Aldersperson Stroik moved approval; seconded by Aldersperson O'Meara to approve the contract with AECOM to further evaluate items related to the creation of a fee structure for a storm water system.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

5. Airport Manager's Report (attachment)

Director Lemke added to the Director's Report another ongoing investigation to look at the grade crossing at Country Club/Hoover Road with the railroad to see what it would take to get some sort of device at remote intersections that would let drivers know if the crossing is blocked or not.

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

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

6. Director's Report (attachment)

Director Lemke added that the storm curbside cleanup is about 75% complete and should be done by the end of this week.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski asked how long Mason Street will be open for drop off. Director Lemke said he is not sure when Zblewski will be done but it will be signed when closed.

Alderson Stroik moved to accept the Director's Report and place it on file; seconded by Alderson Brooks.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Halverson adjourned the August 8, 2011 Board of Public Works Meeting at 8:01 P.M.