

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – June 23, 2014

Members Present: Phil Wedekind, Tom Kolb, and Mike Plautz. **Others Present:** Administrator Geick, Mayor Palm, Engineer Pinion, Wade Peterson, Bob Koss.

Call to Order - Committee Chairman Phil Wedekind called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at the City Service Building, 450 Roundhouse Court, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the agenda as posted and by voice vote, the motion carried. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2014 meeting. By voice vote the motion carried.

New Business

- a. Review and approve the request to replace the “V” box spreader on Truck #12 – Koss stated that this spreader is 22 years old. He said the truck is a 1994, has low mileage and is in excellent shape and he would have no problem putting a new spreader on it because the new one would be stainless steel and in the future if the truck is replaced, the V-box spreader would go on the new truck. Wedekind asked if this was a budgeted item. Koss stated that it was not budgeted; however, this year approximately \$100,000 was placed into vehicle replacement fund, so it was recommended by Cheryl Giese that the money would be pulled from that fund. Koss said the cost of just the V-box is approximately \$13,500 - \$15,000. He said that if a liquid de-icing tank was added on the back the cost would go up \$3,500-\$5,000, cost would not be more than \$20,000. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve replacing the V-box, not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Review and approve bid for 2014 New Sidewalk Projects on Madison Street/Avenue, 15th Street, and Elizabeth Street – Pinion said that these are the sidewalk projects for 2015. He said that this was scheduled to be part of the Council’s consideration two weeks ago; however, it was postponed because it is bigger than what the budget was. He stated that the bid price was \$208,000, based on the quantities that he put together; but as he reviewed the bids, he made an error when he used the quantities for one block of 15th Street, between Keith and Elizabeth instead of the four blocks; therefore, his quantities were too low. He stated that there was one bidder, he is still lower bidder, but the actual cost of the project to the City because it is unit price contract is \$237,228.65, so as a result the special assessments are slightly more than what was originally estimated. He said that concrete contractors are busier so they don’t have to be as competitive as what they may otherwise be. He said that he has spoken to Cheryl Giese and there is money to pay for this, even though it is in excess of what was expected and the resolution for the Council will identify the source of revenue to cover this. \$165,000 will be covered through special assessments, The Alma Waite Fund, as well as what was budgeted from the assessment fund and then the balance gets paid from what we had budgeted for capital costs, plus the bond issue from last year. He said the 15th Street sidewalks were included in last year’s bond issue so that is why we are using that money. He said on Elizabeth Street homeowners were told \$30.00/ft and through driveways it would be \$35/ft, he felt that was conservatively high; however, the cost is \$31.04 and \$32.90, up a little on one and down on the other, so people will have to spend approximately 3% more than what they were told. On 15th Street, the disparity grows a little, they were told \$30.00 and \$35.00; however, the cost is \$35.27 and \$37.08, being approximately a 16% increase over what they were told. On Madison Street they were told \$30.00 and \$35.00, the cost came in at \$33.46 and \$35.28, approximately a 10% increase. He said that in terms of the special assessment procedures, the City cannot assess them more than what our cost is, so of the \$237,000 the City will collect \$165,000 in assessments. Wedekind moved, Kolb seconded to recommend the City proceed to approve the bid for 2014 New Sidewalk Projects on Madison Street/Avenue, 15th Street, and Elizabeth Street. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Review and approve request for second driveway at 1133 College Avenue – Pinion said that this is not a typical second driveway request. He said that this is an existing home with a horseshoe shaped driveway. The owner would like to close off the westerly side and add a driveway towards his property line. Kolb said that he is fine with this as long as the other driveway is removed. Wedekind would like to either both driveways done together or he closes one before the other is put in. Plautz asked if the owner pays for the new curb. Pinion stated that the owner just cuts the curb; it is called a profile cut. The Committee wants the owner to be responsible for replacing the curb cut with new curb at his expense. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the request for a second driveway at 1133 College Avenue conditioned upon the owner closed the westerly driveway before installing the new driveway and that the owner replace the curb cut with new curb and gutter at his expense. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Review and discuss possible Simplified Rate Case to PSC for a 3% rate increase in Water Rates for 2015 – Peterson said that in 2012 the City had a rate increase and it had been ten years prior to that and was a substantial increase, and for the Utility it is quite an expense to apply for that. He said that when this was done it made the City eligible for the simplified rate increase, if the City meets certain criteria the 3% rate increase can be applied for. He recalls when it was discussed in 2012 their goal was to try to make increases more incremental and not so painful to customers. He said for residential, the water increase would be approximately \$1.00 - \$1.50 per quarter. For commercial it would be from \$2.00 - \$17.00 per quarter, depending on water usage. He said that the two that he wanted to mention and talk about were RR Donnelly, they are about 35% of the daily flow, and their rate would go up approximately \$3,000 per quarter. He stated that the City’s portion, what they pay for public fire would go from \$264,000 up to \$272,000. He said that the City’s rates are still some of the lowest in the State. Peterson said that he will bring back rates from other cities and municipalities in July. He said that if the City did a 3% increase across the board it would be approximately \$48,000 increase in the revenue side. He said a projected project for 2015 is the rehab of the Vine Street golf course water tower, which is over \$200,000. Over the last three of four years the Utilities has been fortunate, no water main issues have had to be done. He said that from 2012 to 2017 is the window of opportunity to be able to use the simplified rate increase. He said that lately there has been a 3-4% increase annually on the sewer side and one thing that could be looked at in 2015 is cutting back some projects off the sewer side to make a smaller increase on that side to make it more palatable. Pinion said that in 2012 when the City had the large increase in water rates, the sewer increase was zero. Peterson will bring rate comparisons with surrounding communities to the July meeting.

Reports

- a. Utility Superintendent’s Report – Peterson said that the company hired by the State for the water main on Lynn Avenue should be out of Lynn Avenue today. Work will be starting on South Blvd. tomorrow, they have four water main and two sanitary sewer connections that he wants to

make between Industrial Court and Highway 12. He said that the road will be closed off for three days. He said Allen Steele will be doing two water and two sewer lines and then the Water Utility will be doing the other two water tie-ins. He said that next week the pre-con meeting for South Blvd. and construction will start July 7. Kolb asked when the project will be done. Pinion said that the contractor has not given him the schedule yet; however, he thinks they had the end of October written into their schedule. Pinion said that from highway 12 to Farm and Fleet traffic will be two directions all the time. He said the first thing the contractor will do is the build the new lane on the north side of the road. He said at Farm and Fleet it will be only one-way, the detour will be pulled off for out-bound traffic, but we have to give out-bound traffic the opportunity to utilize the traffic signals. He said that during the design period the City tried very hard to get a temporary signal put in at Sauk Avenue to keep everyone off of South Blvd.; however, the cost was up and just couldn't maintain good access. Kolb asked for the new figures on the sidewalks.

- b. Street Superintendent's Report – Koss said that the detour route on Lynn Avenue has been all patched and is ready for the detour route. He said trees are all taken down for the sidewalk projects, the retaining wall on 15th will be finished today. Kolb said that he received a complaint that one side of four pine trees was taken and it looks bad. Pinion said that the trees will be balanced out and the trees will be saved if possible. Koss said that catch basins and crack filling will be started once the weather starts cooperating. Pinion said that South Blvd. is the final pre-reconstruction public informational meeting scheduled for Thursday evening. He said James Peterson and Son is the contractor and speaking with the DOT, the City is blessed to have them as contractors. He said that he did Highway 12 south of the bridge a few years ago. Pinion said that the City has a summer intern, Amber Wilkinson; she is going to be a junior in college, majoring in communications. She has been designated as the communications liaison for the first six weeks of the projects. Pinion then gave a brief presentation of the South Blvd. detour to the Committee. The Committee then discussed the signage at the Elks Club.
- c. Police Chief's Report – Police Chief was in training, written report was included in the packet.
- d. Fire Chief's Report – Chief Stieve was in training.

ADJOURNMENT – Kolb moved, Wedekind seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Wedekind, Chairman