

MINUTES PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mel Schaefer at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Dave Peschong, Donovan Mayer, and Matt Quade. Advisory members present were Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; and Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc. Keith Hemmesch was absent.

Motion was made by Peschong to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2014 Public Works Committee meeting. Seconded by Quade and unanimously carried.

FROZEN WATER SERVICE POLICY

A Frozen Water Service Policy was reviewed noting that the City is responsible for the portion out in the street and the property owners are responsible for the area on private property. The City will issue a credit to residents who run their water to prevent a freeze up. It was noted that most other communities do not cover the cost of thawing a line or give a water credit to prevent freezing.

Motion was made by Quade to approve the Frozen Water Service Line Policy and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Peschong and unanimously carried.

SNOW PLOWING POLICY

The Committee reviewed the Snow Plowing Policy in reference to the snow event of February 18, 2014; plowing the downtown during the day time hours due to the time of the snow event. It was discussed that this is a safety issue due to all the traffic. It was also noted that the Public Safety committee reviewed this and suggested it be left to the discretion of the Public Works Director to make that call. Members agreed that the Policy does not need to be changed and agreed the decision would need to be left up to the Public Works Director.

SIGN RETROREFLECTIVITY POLICY

Committee members reviewed the proposed Sign Retroreflectivity Policy and the new rules for sign replacement. Under the new rule, the City needs to have this policy adopted by June 2014. The 2015 and 2018 compliance dates have been eliminated and replaced with the language that allows for the useful service life of the signs. This policy covers stop signs, speed limit signs, and the City's street name signs. It was noted that the City's past policy was to replace the sign as a street project occurred as per the street CIP. The City has, in the proposed policy that it would have the inventory completed in five years or by November, 2019 and utilize the expected sign life which states a new sign will be dated when installed. The expected sign life is based on the experience of sign retroreflectivity degradation in the City.

Motion was made by Peschong to approve the Sign Retroreflectivity Policy and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Mayer and unanimously carried.

WATER PLANT REHAB

DeWolf reported that construction is expected to resume with the warmer weather.

MPCA – FORMER MIDTOWN SERVICE STATION

It was reported that the City expects to have a report back from Barr Engineering by the next meeting.

ALLEY BETWEEN RAILROAD STREET & JAMES STREET

Quade reported that AMPI is working on a survey.

2014 STREET PROJECT

DeWolf informed the members that bids were received and opened with the apparent low bid from Kuechle. An informational meeting will be held March 19, 2014 with the public hearing to be held on March 24, 2014 at which time the project could also be awarded.

WASTEWATER RE-SCOPE PROJECT

The City is waiting for warmer weather to complete the punch list items.

2015 STREET PROJECT

DeWolf reported that he will have the report prepared for the next meeting.

TRUCK ROUTE

DeWolf reported that he discussed the Business 23/River St. right turn with the Stearns County. Even with improvements the right turn maneuver may not conform to a tractor trailer. Other items discussed included:

1. The exceptions list would have to be very detailed.
2. Enforcement with the exception list would be very difficult.
3. Lake Ave. improvements will help encourage trucks to use Lake Ave. to Hwy. 23.

NUCARA ALLEY

It was reported that a meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.