



CITY OF BETHEL

Public Works Department

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL: Present—Murphy, Faulkner, Vanasse, and Paul O'Brien
Absent: Scheall, Mike O'Brien
Others present— Wayne Smith, Administrative Assistant

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M/M Murphy, Faulkner to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved— unanimous

IV. AGENDA: M/M Murphy, O'Brien to approve agenda as presented. Motion approved— unanimous

V. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: There were no people to be heard.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Mr. Vanasse noted the absence of Andy Scheall represented his third, consecutive absence from a scheduled meeting.

M/M Murphy, Faulkner to declare Andy Scheall's seat vacant
Motion approved— unanimous

Mr. Vanasse also expressed his deep disappointment at the absence of the Public Works Director, and welcomed Paul O'Brien as the newest member of the committee.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Smith, substituting for Public Works Director Clair Grifka, reported on a new work order tracking system, which the department believes will vastly improve the financial status of both Property Maintenance and Vehicles and Equipment.

Mr. Smith also reported personnel shortages are a concern for the department at present, but two open driver positions and the Road Maintenance Heavy Equipment Mechanic slot are expected to be filled soon.

A recent power outage did significant damage to the control units on a number of the City's boilers.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Murphy inquired about the status of the removal of both the old library and firehouse buildings. Mr. Smith replied he was unsure as to why the old library structure had not been removed as yet, but reported Lisa Powell had demonstrated an interest in acquiring the former fire station. Mr. Faulkner stated Ms. Powell had approached him about moving the structure to another location, but that such a project was not feasible. He added that Ms. Powell's plans to acquire the building would almost certainly not go forward. Mr. Murphy also called on the department to increase the use of the graders on the streets and roads, noted that a drift pile near the Cultural Center is a sight hazard along the State Highway, and encouraged the department to avoid creating large snow piles near roadways. He also stated his belief that installation of adequate street lighting should be the responsibility of sub-dividers, not the City.

Mr. Faulkner reiterated his belief that an appropriate vehicle should be provided to Greg Sargent, Utilities Maintenance foreman. Mr. Smith explained that a Jeep Cherokee had been provided, but agreed a pickup would be a more appropriate piece of equipment.

Mr. O'Brien had no comment.

Mr. Vanasse reported that there are abandoned vehicles along Ptarmigan Road that present an obstruction to any snow removal effort. He also inquired as to whether dirt removed from the small boat harbor could be used to fill nearby areas in need of fill. Mr. Faulkner, who has the dredging contract, noted his willingness to place the dirt wherever the City wants within a reasonable distance, but doubted Army Corps of Engineers stipulations regarding fill would allow such use of the material.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Aeration of the sewer lagoon: Mr. Smith reported that the department's investigation into the availability of aeration equipment from facilities being closed revealed that such equipment was not available for acquisition through sale or any other means. Further investigation also revealed that aeration would probably not significantly increase the life expectancy of the lagoon, although it would assist in increasing the efficiency of the lagoon's treatment operation. Mr. Faulkner asked if the department was considering acquiring aeration equipment and, if so, when it might be installed. Mr. Smith said Utilities Maintenance personnel were investigating that possibility, that it might be in the FY99 budget proposal and, if it were

further details. Committee members felt portable equipment would be valuable to the department.

Computer hardware for Public Works Administration- Mr. Smith noted that his computer is incompatible with most in the City, making him unable to share information with other departments, including the Planning Department, for which he works. Mr. Smith described his current hardware as slow, outdated, and incapable of utilizing Windows 95 software. Committee members did not feel purchase of this item should be delayed until July.

M/M Vanasse, Murphy to recommend that the City Council authorize the immediate purchase of PC equipment and accessories for Public Works Administration. This will permit Public Works Administration to properly process its work orders, and will permit information exchange with computer equipment in other City departments. The committee recommends the City Council approve a budget modification to fund this purchase, the amount not to exceed \$3,500.00.

Motion approved- unanimous

X. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: M/M Vanasse, Faulkner to adjourn. Motion approved- unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____,

1998

Gary Vanasse, Interim Chairman

ATTEST:

Wayne Smith, Administrative Assistant