

---

# City of Bethel, Alaska

## Public Works Committee Minutes

---

March 20, 2007

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

---

### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on March 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Shop Conference room, Bethel, Alaska.

### ROLL CALL

Meeting called at 6:30 PM

Comprising a quorum of the Committee, the following were present:

Andy McGowan  
Mike Salzburn

Jeff Sanders  
Frank Neitz

Steve Powers

Excused absence(s): Steve Murat

Unexcused absence: None

Also in attendance were the following:

Wayne Ogle, Public Works Director  
Sandra Moseley, Recorder of Minutes, Administration Assistant  
Paul O'Brien, Community Member

### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Paul O'Brien, a local residential and light commercial building contractor, told the committee about piped water difficulties a homeowner, who is a customer of his, has been experiencing at 445 Napakiak, City Sub. He described a most recent issue which caused the home owner to believe his water and sewer were frozen for a week, however subsequent investigation revealed that the water had been shut off at the water main service line interface and when the valve was opened water flow returned to this residence and all of the equipment his company had installed was full functioning.

Mr. O'Brien also stated that he has had a long history of miscommunication on this project with the past and present water and sewer foremen, the public works director, and the city manager. He has heard rumors about the poor quality of workmanship in this project causing freeze-ups and other home owner service interruption issues and believes some of this criticism is directed at his company and the integrity of their workmanship. He reiterated that the system his company installed has been operationally reliable. He feels that the rumors regarding this issue have impugned the reputation of his company and feels he is due an apology from the public works director and city manager for whatever role they played in this chain of events. He emphasized that he has

had conversations with his legal council involving all of the above and expects the home owner will seek some legal council as well.

Elevated levels of lead found in 4 out of 24 houses in city sub:

The public works director reminded the committee in his monthly report that the city is taking necessary steps to have DEC compliant water quality for city sub. He mentioned that the results of the current desk top study appear to favor introducing an additive to all of the water leaving the city sub water plant. Because this treats most of the hauled water customers as well who have not been shown to have an elevated lead issue and because the full extent of the problem is not known in city sub and the source of the problem is believed to be in the internal piping, not city owned infrastructure or homeowner service equipment some of the committee members wanted to know if a more local solution might not be more effective. Mr. Ogle assured the committee that he would keep the committee apprised of any other treatment options that became known as a result of this study that would satisfy DEC requirements.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	F. Neitz	To approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	S. Powers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

**A Directors report was given by Wayne Ogle**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	A. McGowan	To approve the Agenda.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	F. Neitz	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ITEM A: Discussion on Public Works Committee Reporting.**

Discussion of the Committee ensued.

**ITEM B: Water and Sewer Tank Availability FY2008**

Discussion of the Committee ensued.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	M. Salzburn	To accept Lyman Hoffman's proposal to utilize 500 gallon water tank in a one bedroom residence under construction because the 600 gallon tank specified in BMP is not readily available as a production tank.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	F. Neitz	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

**ITEM C: Car Crusher Acquisition – Shorty’s Shop**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	A. McGowan	To direct the Public Works Director to look into the economics of utilizing a car crusher both from a standpoint of extending the lifespan of the Public Landfill and providing recycle revenues.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	F. Neitz	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

**Item D: Final Report – Waste Water Treatment Plant Update.**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	M. Salzburn	To accept the report prepared by GV Jones and Associates for VSW and the City of Bethel Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Plan Re-Evaluation Final Report. The report contains three options and the Committee has chosen to support moving forward with the membrane treatment method.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	S. Powers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Vote: 4 yes 1 no.
-----------------------	---

**Due to time motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	A. McGowan	To adjourn at 8:30 PM.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	S. Powers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

**ITEM E: Maintenance of W & S Equipment, within City Sub – Update.**

**ITEM F: Utility Rate Reconstruction – Cost Formula – Update**

**ITEM G: How Can We Lower W&S Rates (Leinberger)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM A: BUC Waste Heat Study**

**ITEM B: Discussion of (2) Proposed PW Positions**

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Mike Salzburn** none this meeting.

**Steve Powers** none this meeting.

**Frank Neitz** none this meeting.

**Steve Murat** none this meeting.

**Andy McGowan** none this meeting.

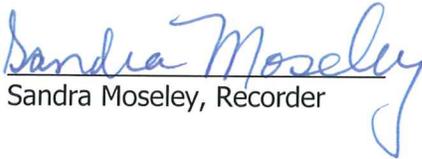
**Jeff Sanders** none this meeting.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**APPROVED THIS 17 day of April 2007.**

  
Jeff Sanders, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Sandra Moseley, Recorder