

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Works Committee Minutes

September 16, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular Public Works Committee Meeting was held on September 16, 2015 in the council chambers of the City Hall, Bethel, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by Frank Neitz at 6:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the committee, the following were present: Byron Maczynski, Frank Neitz, Scott Guinn, Jennifer Dobson, Donna Lindsey, Robert Champagne and Joseph Klejka arrived at 6:39 pm.

Excused absence(s): Delbert Egoak and Alisha Welch

Also Present: Muzaffar Lakhani, Public Works Director
 Pauline Boratko, Committee Recorder
 John Sargent, City Grant Writer
 Clair Grifka, City Building Maintenance Foreman
 Ann Capela, City Manager

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Clair Grifka, Building Maintenance Foreman, City of Bethel Presented the status Report (with the help of colored pictures and the Google maps) of the city's Boardwalk between the Hospital and the University:

Mr. Grifka said that, This 30 year old board walk sits on a single row of "AVEC owned" pilings, is failing and in a very poor condition, and is unstable and unsafe for residents to use. Due to the liability to the City this boardwalk has been shut down for many years now. The pilings are failing (Raised at some places and sunk at other places) resulting in shaking and swinging of the boardwalk sidewise. This boardwalk has been repaired numerous times in the past.

Vandalism, freeze/thaw cycles, and rotten wood are some of the contributing factors in the current condition of the boardwalk.

Grifka presented an estimate ranging between \$350K to \$380K to replace it. Grifka's estimate was supported by the Vice-chair Scott Guinn, who as a local contractor gave his opinion that; the replacement cost will run in the range of \$500K.

Grifka made a suggestion to not to invest money in repairs of this boardwalk but to build a Geo-tile walk on ground instead of wooden boardwalk on the piles.

Members of the Committee requested an engineering estimate at the planning level for the Goe-block walk alternate as discussed.

Post Note: DOWL Consultants (City's current Consulting Engineers) have been retained to submit a planning level estimate for this task.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY	Joe Klejka	Motion to approve the agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Scott Guinn	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Scott Guinn	Motion to approve minutes of August 19, 2015 regular meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Joseph Klejka	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A:

- Water & Sewer Master Plan, Institutional Corridor Location of 4th Well for City Sub Water Treatment Plant (CSWTP):

Director informed that, 4th (back-up well for the CSWTP) was drilled as planned in year 2000 about 90 feet from the existing well outside the CSWTP, this well turned out to be a non- producing well. The well was eventually filled with sand, plugged with grout, capped, and abandoned. A second attempt was made in year 2014. This well was drilled, within 50 feet of the existing producing well outside the treatment plant in a different direction. This well turned out to be a "NON-PRODUCING DRY" Well as well, this well was capped and abandoned. The cost for the drilling and the engineering for this second attempt were paid from this grant money for the I.C. Piped Water Supply Project. At current time there is no funding budgeted for more exploratory wells.

The Hospital authorities in a recent meeting with the City indicated that they will NOT allow the new water pipe to cross the Hospital's proposed parking lot (As suggested by the City's feasibility study of July 2014), and the city has to construct the new water pipe around the Hospital property. This change in the alignment would add about 1400+ lineal feet of the pipe to the project budget. Also the Hospital officials indicated that the Hospital may NOT be interested in hooking up with the city's new I.C. water supply pipe, and will rely on their own water production system. If this happens to be the case, then city will lose lot of revenue, as taken into consideration in the city's water and sewer rate study.

Item B:

-Sewer Lagoon, - RFP for PER & ER for Truck Dump site and other options:

The Draft Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) has been submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture- Rural Development (USDA-RD), by the City's Consultants. Once the complete list of comments is received and the alternative finalized, the 30 day scoring period for the "ER" Environmental Report will start.

The draft copy of the PER dated August 2015 prepared by DOWL has been provided to the Public Works Committee via email.

EPA has directed the City's Consultants DOWL, to explore the option of using city's main sewer lift station as a sewer dumping site, as one of the alternatives.

The recent heavy rains have done additional damage to the already failing jetty (Sewer Truck Dump Site, at the sewer Lagoon).

In response to the City Management's requests/efforts, the EPA has indicated that the City of Bethel will be getting an additional grant of \$2.1 million for Lagoon rehabilitation project (Phase II: Dredging and Baffle walls replacement). The City has to come up with a local match for this grant. "SRF" State's Revolving Fund loan (Low interest rate loan) will be an option for the City to look into to provide the local match or to pay from its water/sewer fund. Currently DOWL is preparing the Technical Memorandum to be submitted with the grant application to the State.

Item C

-Wind Turbine and Swimming Pool water consumption cost analysis:

Swimming Pool water consumption has relatively gone down after City management advising the Pool management contractor (USA Pools) of heavy usage of water at the pool. Bryon Maczynski suggested the timed showers be replaced to make sure that water is not wasted.

John Sargent reported that the wind turbine is currently generating 41% of the total power consumption at the swimming pool.

As of July 2014 the two year maintenance warranty for the Turbine has been in effect and will expire in July 2016.

City received two proposals in response to the RFP for the Maintenance of the Turbine, both proposals were incomplete as received, and were disqualified by the City.

The city is considering to go for sole sourcing it out to the manufacturer.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Power Cost Equalization (PCE) on the City of Bethel Buildings:** The list of the PCE eligible buildings was provided to the committee members by the PW Director. The application for the Police Department and the Pool are in process. Per John Sargent, City’s Finance Director is currently working on these applications.

-**The Proposed new Subdivision:** Called the “Blue Skye Estate”. The developer didn’t complete application, did not follow the city code to submit all the required data. The project was declined by the Army Core of Engineers for wetland permit.

-**Ridgecrest Drive Project:** There is no new update to report. There isn’t any funding available at this time; this project was defunded by the city Council during the budget process this year. So it is on hold for the time being.

-The Land Conservation Fund Grant, Pinky’s Park improvement-

The Public Works Committee has discussed and declined this project, because the scope of in-kind local/city match work was way under estimated when this grant application was submitted. The city will get only \$108,000.00 in grant and will have to spend more than 1:4 dollars in local match to complete this project, which is not worth city’s time and money to start this project.

IX. Directors Report:

- Public Works director Muzaffar Lakhani reported that they started pumping the lagoon for fall of 2015 discharge.
- Repaired 16 garbage dumpsters in-house which added 8-10 more years of life to each dumpster. We purchased four new Plastic dumpsters, which are being tested.
- There has been vandalism to 2 city vehicles on Monday morning on September 07, 2015 parked in the city Hall parking lot.
- Copy of the Larson Consultant Group (LCG) Water/sewer Master plan of 2013 was provided to the Committee members.
- There was a break-in at the landfill office this morning 9-16-2015 and the toy heating stove was stolen

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

Joseph Klejka – I like the progress the department is making, it’s nice to see the flow of information come in.

Scott Guinn- it is easy to just tell Zef and he gets it done, but if the roads gets bad then city council hears about it because this is what we see everyday.

Jenifer Dobson – No Comment

Donna Lindsey – lots of info to absorb

Byron Maczynski- I am very proud of everyone and our support of the committee.

Frank Neitz – Thanked everyone for their attendance, information, and time. I feel bad that I cannot make a recommendation because the committee is already ahead. Thank you all for coming.

Muzaffar Lakhani- Thank you committee members and Frank for your leadership support and concerns.

Robert Champagne- no comment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Joseph Klejka	Motion to adjourn
SECONDED BY:	Donna Lindsey	

VOTE ON MOTION

Motion Carried by unanimous vote

APPROVED THIS 21 DAY OF October, 2015.


Pauline Boratko
Recorder of Minutes


Frank Neitz, Chair