



City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Works Committee Agenda

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 Regular Meeting 6:30PM City Hall Council Chambers

MEMBERS

Byron Maczynski
Council Rep.
Term Expires
10/2016

Frank Neitz
Chair
Term Expires
12/2016

Scott Guinn
Vice-Chair
Term Expires
12/2017

Robert Champagne
Committee Member
Term Expires
12/2017

Jennifer Dobson
Committee Member
Term Expires
12/2017

Donna Lindsey
Committee Member
Term Expires
12/2015

Delbert Egoak
Committee Member
Term Expires
12/2015

Alisha Welch
Alternate Member
Term Expires
12/2018

Joseph Klejka
Alternate Member
Term Expires
12/2017

Muzaffar Lakhani
Ex-Officio Member

Secretary/Recorder
Pauline Boratko

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – (5 Minute Limit)
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Minutes from the previous regular meeting – September 16, 2015 (there was a meeting).
- VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Water & Sewer Master Plan/Institutional Corridor Piped Water Supply Project, alternate routing of the pipe alignment if Hospital does not commit to buy the water from the city – The negative impact on revenue if Hospital does not buy water from city - Frank Neitz
 - B. Sewer Lagoon, – RFP (Request for Proposal) for PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) & ER (Environmental Report) for Truck Dump Site and other options. -Frank Neitz
 - C. Wind Turbine Maintenance Contract sole sourcing to Northern Power – Frank Neitz
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - Need of safety lighting in different Neighborhoods- Scott Guinn.
 - Installing the Lining/sleeves inside the old metallic water supply pipes- Byron Maczynski
 - Landfill hours for Saturdays- Byron Maczynski
- IX. Director’s Report
- X. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

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 toyo 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
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APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF -----, 2015.

Frank Neitz, Chair

Pauline Boratko
Recorder of Minutes

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/01/2015
TO: Ann Capela, City Manager
FROM: Muzaffar Lakhani, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Manager's Report –

Utility Maintenance:

We finished repairing the lagoon discharge line and V&E repaired the engine on the lagoon discharge pump. We have been repairing things at the water treatment plant and preparing for the consultant to arrive 10/12/2015. Also working on sewer line in Bethel Height getting ready for winter. Lagoon discharge continues this month.

Hauled Utilities: for September we have pumped over 3,000,000 gallons of water, 2,700,000 of sewer, and hauled over 3000 cubic yards of garbage to the land fill. I have had a crew out and about to most of the dumpster sites cleaning up around the dumpsters. It seems that the more we clean the messier the public makes it. I believe we should have a spokesman do a radio sit in, and advise the general public not to place their old furniture and appliances around the dumpster sites. And for the last couple of months we have had a welder donating c w s hours to repair some of the rotted and damaged dumpsters. But this will have to stop for the season due to the fact we will have to start parking the water sewer and garbage trucks inside the shop due to the onset of the colder weather.

Property Maintenance:

We are still performing annual maintenance to our boilers and servicing all relative equipment. They have been fired up and running when the weather has cooled and we make adjustments when it warms up. I still worry lots about the Court House with only one source of heat there. I sure wish we had an agreement with A.V.E.C. on utilization of waste heat. **That is an important building in the community and an expensive fix if it were to freeze up with no backup plan, something to think about.**

With winter around the corner we have been finishing up some of our outside projects. With all the burials this summer the remainder of the cemetery plots on the civilian side was all staked. We should have a couple of three years left is all I'm guessing. Next year we might want to think of expansion of the cemetery over there. We have been maintaining all our buildings as problems come up with

doors, windows and plumbing. At the Public Works committee meeting of September 2015 boardwalks were talked about, how expensive and labor intensive they were to maintain. We should move to routing them around water and low areas. We could save a lot of time and money if we moved from the idea of boardwalks to 'Trails & Pathways', and stay away from anything out of wood or elevated. Thank you.

Parks and Recreation:

For the month of September we mowed and trimmed all the parks one last time before the season ends. We cleaned and organized the bus barn open area and discarded all broken things. We have got all the things taken care of before winter/freeze. Been reviewing all my notes from the season to better our plan for next year. We marked out the layout for the newest cemetery. We started painting inside the City Hall Hallway.

Road Maintenance:

Streets and Roads, has hauled in the last of the gravel from Knik to our gravel pile on the south side of the city shop. This is the last of the D-1 gravel from Knik this year, and we hauled it as soon as they got it in by barge from Platinum. We will use some of this to finish up a few road projects before freeze up and the rest will be used for the up keep on the roads this winter.

Streets and Roads, has also been doing a lot of grading this month due to the rain storms. This is an ongoing battle this time of the year to stay on top before it freezes so that the roads will freeze smooth as possible. I hope this winter stay frozen when it freezes and the snow will stay, not like last winter were it keep thawing out and raining all throughout the winter.

Streets and Roads, this month has replaced culverts in Larson Sub., Blue Berry Sub., 7th Ave., Hoffman Sub., and Tundra Ridge. This will help to keep the roads from washing out this coming spring, and also it will be much easy to thaw out with our steamers.

Streets and Roads has still been hauling in sand to our salt sand pile on the north side of the shop, as we have time to do so. This is what we use to mix our salt and sand for the sanders that we use during the winter time.

We have received the Sodium and Calcium Chloride on the last Northland barge of the year from Span Alaska this month. This is what we have been looking for, so that we can mix up our salt sand, for our road sanders this coming month in October.

Vehicles and Equipment: the V&E department has been very busy trying to winterize the police vehicles, as well as keeping up with the utility trucks, and road equipment, and the transit vehicles. This department is severely undermanned for the amount of rolling stock within the city. We really need at least 2 more mechanics with tools and experience, mechanic's certifications and Commercial Driver's Licenses. The Job has been posted for several months now, but no one qualified has applied to date. The current mechanics are doing the best they can.

Transit System:

In September we only averaged 76 riders per day. We had three buses down for two to two and a half weeks waiting for parts etc., and had to cancel the RED LINE, this played a large part in the ridership being down, along with the weather (wind and rain). Because of this our ridership for September 2015 is down about 18% from September of 2014). We continue to provide the best service we can. We know that dependability and reliability of service plays a key role in maintaining our ridership. Passengers are not willing to wait at the bus stop 5-10 minutes, in the rain and wind, for the bus that is late or never show up.

John Sargent, City Grant Manager, is working on the RFP's for the new buses and the Bus Stop Shelters. He has finished the Bus Shelter RFP and it should go to the Administration / City Council for approval this week. The State has just finished the draft of the RFP for Cut Away Buses and it should be finalized by the end of the month. In the mean time John is working on one, that parallels, the State's and he should be finished with it by next week and it should go to the Administration /City Council for their approval by mid month. The new Bus Stop Shelters will play a critical role in the increase in our ridership; it not only will provide protection from the weather for the ridership but it will also provide identification for the Transit System. The new buses will help in providing dependability and reliability for service.

DOT will have the FY 17 grant application available the first part of October and it's due back to them the first part of December. We know that the grant will require a matching fund and we're in hopes that some of the local business and agencies will help here. We're in the process of contacting, ONC, AVCP, Calista, and YKHC to see if they'd be willing to help with part of the match amount. Money is really tight and it'll be difficult for "them" to help out.

Due to nonstop rains the roads are full of mud. I've had to wash the buses everyday and sometimes twice a day to keep them somewhat clean. Being able to house them in the Transit Bus Barn has helped us to provide routine maintenance and with all the vandalism it's a secure place for them.

Bethel Transit System goal for the FY 2016 will be to show a 20-25 percent increase in ridership / revenue. I think we can do this by providing **better and more dependable / reliable service** for our passengers.

Landfill / Recycle Center:

The landfill is still waiting on DEC's report on our landfill inspection. This past month I did another water sample from around the exterior of the landfill's surface water ponds. The land fill took in a total of 178 refrigerator/freezers this past year. 152 of those had the Freon removed this summer and were then crushed and buried.