



CITY OF BETHEL

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular Scheduled Meeting November 16, 1999

CITY SHOP, CONFERENCE ROOM

12:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Acting Interim Chairman Paul O'Brien at 12:10 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Faulkner, P.O'Brien, M. O'Brien, Vanasse, and Tarr.
Absent: Murphy
Others Present: Clair Grifka, Public Works Director

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vanasse/M. O'Brien to approve minutes. Motion Approved-unanimous.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Faulkner/P. O'Brien to approve agenda. Motion approved-unanimous.

V. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

No one to be heard.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Acting Chairman does not have anything to report.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director reminded everyone that there hasn't been a regular scheduled meeting since April 20, 1999 but that the meetings will become regular again, occurring every third Tuesday of every month. The Director mentioned that many improvements have been made around town such as culverting, drainage, and ditching. Some new equipment has been added to the fleet. With all these new improvements, Public Works has had temporary help, which has been good.

The Director also mentioned that all in all, not many of the roads are bad since freeze-up, except where the grader has not been to yet. If the weather does warm up, the Road Maintenance department will be out in the evenings to do the work.

The Director said that there have been many complaints from the public regarding grading the roads and other specific invalid complaints such as the Public Works department not being out enough, not doing enough when out, and not doing things right. These complaints have gone to the councilmen, not to Clair. The Director mentioned that he would like the Public to be more aware of what Public Works is doing so that the public can see what Public Works is trying to accomplish.

The Utilities department has had some new trucks with computer glitches, which are in the process of being worked out. Public Works is finally starting to get a descent looking fleet of vehicles that's not 15-16 years old. This helps out a lot as far as trying to vehicle parts. The Director talked about the problems with utility drivers. The last 3 out of 4 people offered jobs never showed up to work. The pay scale is around \$14.10 - \$14.85 an hour which is not bad. The Director is looking into possibly adding another dollar to it. Two new positions were approved in the budget but there has been trouble filling them with only one application as of August plus a few. There are people who have problems with getting to work at 7 AM. The council has mentioned that Public Works should be more responsive to calls after hours, in which case, more drivers would be needed. A split shift schedule is being considered.

The Director also mentioned that drivers use up their annual leave faster than they are accumulating it.