

## **Public Works Committee Minutes**

**Special Scheduled Meeting May 6, 2002**

**CITY SHOP, CONFERENCE ROOM**

**6:30 PM**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Mike Shantz at 6:39 PM.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: G. Vanasse, M. Shantz, K. Murphy, Y. Jorgensen,  
K. Murphy, and L. Bradury.

Excused: P. O'Brien, M. Samuelson

Others Present: Clair Grifka Public Works Director  
Betsy Jumper, Temp. Administrative Assistant

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M/M L. Bradbury/K. Murphy to approve the minutes from April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Unanimous.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

M/M G. Vanasse/L. Bradbury to approve the agenda for May 6<sup>th</sup>

Unanimous.

### **V. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

None at this time.

### **VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None at this time.

### **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A summary of the manager's report of May 6, 2002 was read.

A safety meeting was held last week, trying to do on a quarterly basis. We are taking care of the regular spring-time items, getting ready for the summer. The CCR reports are coming out in the paper, it is mandated by the EPA. The Building Maintenance Department is working on several buildings working on regular maintenance items. Pioneer Door is coming out to take care of our overhead doors. We are trying to move to a regular preventative maintenance program. Roads are bad, we are doing what we can. The frost is still coming up out of the ground and the rain has been real tough on us. Dave White went down to Texas and inspected a piece of equipment; a new garbage truck, and then went to Phoenix to look at a water truck. It's a slightly used vehicle that we acquired and we are getting some repairs done to it and then have it barged up this summer. G. Vanasse asked if the water truck was used, and Mr. Grifka said yes. Garbage truck is new. G. Vanasse asked why there was a truck sitting in the dump; Mr. Grifka said it was offered for auction, but was now going to be for parts. We are going to pull the engine. The rams might be of some use. We just put it out there to clean the shop yard. G. Vanasse asked if it would be buried in the dump, Mr. Grifka replied in the affirmative.

L. Bradbury had a comment about the roads, and wanted to comment how good the ones were that had been graveled. A world of difference. Overall, the roads with gravel are good.

A report on the culverts was made by Mr. Grifka. There is water sitting everywhere. The culvert on the corner by Ken Sankwiches lot was thawed out twice, was open, then froze, then glaciatiated back up into where Ken's was. We're going to replace that culvert on the corner. It is too high and is broke in the middle. His culvert's pieced together and there is a need for culvert enforcement. We're going to check his building Permit. We may have to replace his culverts. M. Shantz had a comment on a budget line item about culvert sizes; 18" culverts, thought 24" was the minimum. Some places have to have 18" and the 24" sometimes are too big. Supposed to be 24" in the budget. L. Bradbury commented in cases where it would appear that you need an 18" culvert should you just build the road up that much more, as opposed to trying to put the 18" culvert in. Mr. Grifka stated there needs in some cases where 18" is needed, but mostly 24". Some places it'd be nice to have a speed bump though.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

None at this time.

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

ITEM A: Discussion of the solid waste lagoon and sewage facilities.

## ACTION ITEM

Mr. Grifka took the floor and gave a briefing. Landfill: a need to start planning for the future. Recommend to get a compactor and a plan on moving into a baler down the road. Part of this will be funded. When I applied for this feasibility study 3 years ago, I included the landfill and lagoon together. We found out a few weeks ago that we're scoring points to have this tied together because solid waste stand alone they wouldn't even look at any grant money or funding. With the lagoon recommendations we can share a facility. One would help the other where they're looking at the facility saving 10 million dollars so not have to duplicate the buildings.

The main lift station is at the top of the list. M. Shantz commented he hopes it is at the top of the list. Immediate replacement with the lift station, located next to the laundromat. We are looking at not moving it far away, maybe get some school land. Have a conceptual drawing of a lift station, it's not a big footprint but it shouldn't be bad, about 660,000 thousand dollars we're talking about. This is our number one priority. Hopefully there'll be some money thru Steven's Office or the Denali Commission.

Lagoon: We have to start thinking about going to secondary treatment at some point. When we discharge, we're getting good results, until the end, then our BOD starts coming up. We have problems with erosion. Water gets in. We have to start doing something different for treatment. Lagoons are baffled. We pump in spring, and in fall they settle and freeze down and don't get a chance to come up, so treatment is not happening. Passable results on samples. It's going to start getting worse. Sooner or later, we will have to look at secondary treatment and eventually primary treatment.

With this feasibility study came grant money to start a pilot plan for membrane technology. It's just some new technology that's coming out. This is something we will try out for a couple of months. It's working good in Alaska and in other parts of the world. Japan for example.

Recommendation from the committee: what sort of alternative secondary treatment can be done? M. Shantz commented we need to prioritize what we need to happen tonight as a committee. A summary of costs on the sewer lagoon. A lined lagoon is not an option at this time.

Can we bond? M. Shantz commented it would take too long to get money here and there. L. Bradbury asked if the city council has considered bonding.

What to do? Lined lagoon, or go to some method of conventional treatment? What can we afford and what will work? Lined, conventional, or membrane treatment?

Membrane maybe could be the way to go. Is there enough money to handle everything? Proven technology that works maybe the way to go.

M/M L. Bradbury/K. Murphy to pursue Membrane pilot project immediately and at the same time persuing long term funding for conventional treatment.

Unanimous

Landfill:

M/M G. Vanasse/L. Bradbury to forward a recommendation to the city council to proceed to secure funding for a new Sheepsfoot compactor and baler facility and continue with vertical expansion of existing solid waste facility.

Unanimous

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

ITEM A: Budget Review.

The budget line items were reviewed one by one.

We started with P.W. Admin and moved down through all the departments. Hiring an assistant public works director was discussed, as well as foreman roles. An explanation was given line item by line item.

Streets and Roads:

The ice road was cut and there were questions about it.

The belly dump was discussed along with snow-buckets. Leave snow bucket in Budget.

There was some discussion on the usefulness of the tractors and belly dumps. It was not recommended by the committee. The committee recommended staying with end dumps stating they would be used more than belly dumps. A Sheepsfoot compactor was also highly recommended to get into this year's budget.

Went through each department to discuss equipment items and reasons for increases or decreases.

Capitol Expenditures was prioritized in departments requesting them.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

M/M L. Bradbury/K. Murphy to Adjourn at 10:30PM

Unanimous

ATTEST: Paul O'Brien DATE: 5-21-02

**Paul O'Brien, Chair**

bj/ssm/CG