

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:                   Chairperson Randy Backous  
  Councilmember Colin McGlone

Also Present:                       City Administrator Kurtis G. Ulrich  
  City Engineer Tim Himmer  
  Fire Chief/Interim Public Works Director Dean Kapler  
  Street Supervisor Grant Reimer  
  Park Supervisor Mark Riverblood

Absent:                               Councilmember David Elvig (excused)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Backous called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:44 p.m.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

There was none.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Backous, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Backous, to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2012 Public Works Meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Chairperson Backous stated to begin with Case 5.6 Winter Maintenance Summary to allow for resident attendance of Case 5.1 Consider Stormwater Improvements at 149<sup>th</sup> Lane.

### **Case #5.6: Winter Maintenance Summary**

Street Supervisor Grant Reimer reviewed the comparison of the last two winter seasons. He stated the last storm of this season was the toughest, it took two days to clean up and that snowfall consisted of the most complaints. He reviewed the equipment breakdown that added to the delay. He also reviewed the overtime comparisons of the last two seasons.

Councilmember McGlone wanted to comment on the last snow plow event and didn't feel what he seen was acceptable in his neighborhood in Northfork.

Street Supervisor Riemer response to Councilmember McGlone's photos of Inverness Lane as it looked like the down pressure was working on the equipment and what he was seeing in the photo looked to him as snow packed from vehicle traffic. He explained when you get chemical on top of that and it warms back up it is going to loosen it up.

Street Supervisor Riemer responded to photos of St. Andrews Lane that the snowplows don't have down pressure and on the belly blade you only get 500 pounds.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood added to the conversation that he had a lot of complaints also and one of the issues was periodically the tandems would get thrown across the road and it was characterized as wet concrete.

Chairperson Backous stated he does not know what can be done in those kinds of situations, we did the best we could, maybe we could have gone back out again but those are judgment calls. He is going to trust the judgment of the staff that has been doing this for many years.

Councilmember McGlone wanted to make a suggestion in regards to replacement parts during these events. He stated Connexus has a state of the art facility that they work throughout the night; it would be a good resource to keep in mind for future events. He stated they stock parts for a lot of trucks that the City drives.

Chairperson Backous and Councilmember McGlone agreed to move onto Case #5.7 while the Committee is still waiting for the public to show up on their cases.

### **Case #5.7: The Use of AVL System in Public Works**

Public Works Street Supervisor Riemer explained the Automatic Vehicle Locator system and how it would be a benefit to the City and its residents. He reviewed the fleet management package that could come with it. The abbreviated costs are upfront costs for hardware and operator training for 15 snow removal vehicles is about \$9112.00. The recurring monthly costs for the system is \$259.60/month or \$3,115.00/yr.

Councilmember McGlone stated he likes the idea of tracking these things. He asked why staff decided to go with the AVL system.

Street Supervisor Riemer stated it was reviewed by the Public Works Director and City Administrator and it was decided to go with this system. There are three contractors on the list for the State of Minnesota and this one was the most responsive to us.

City Administrator Ulrich wanted to comment that he likes the accountability and transparency of this for the public and for the service.

Chairperson Backous stated it was one of our strategic goals to be more transparent to the public and aside from that he thinks it is a nice tool for vehicle maintenance.

Street Supervisor Riemer discussed another part that can be added is on board cameras which could interface with a work order program.

Fire Chief/Interim Public Works Director Kapler stated that with storm season upon us, the public works department are the ones responsible for opening up our roadways and this would be a good tool to identify priorities of what comes first.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Backous, to direct staff to continue to gather information and pricing for consideration in the 2013 budget.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

City Engineer Himmer requested that Case #5.2 be discussed because no one is present for Case#5.1 and continue moving on down the agenda.

Chairperson Backous agreed to move onto Case #5.2.

**Case #5.2: Consider Stormwater Improvements to Rum River Hills Golf Course – A Continuation of Discussion Related to 2011 Flooding Concerns**

City Engineer Himmer reviewed this item was presented last fall and at that time the Committee decided to look at these on a case by case basis.

City Engineer Himmer reviewed at Hole #1 (Area 1) we are talking about replacing the existing pipe with a larger pipe going from a 12” to an 18” and adding an outlet structure.

City Engineer Himmer continued to review the cart path area near the club house (Area 2A, B) again there is an undersized culvert through this area and this could be upsized but are just talking about upsizing this pipe also.

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the saturated soil along Hole #15 (Area 3) and discussed modifying that outlet just to drop that elevation a little bit more.

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the series of ponds in the Hole #3 and #17 (Area 4 A,B,C) and stated there are some undersized outlets and you won't get a significant amount of benefit from upsizing those pipes but enough such that there has been a lot of heaving of those. Sometimes your downstream invert is higher than your upstream invert.

City Engineer Himmer stated the costs for Area #1 estimated to be \$47,000 - \$50,000 range and stormwater utility would be the funding for this. We are out for bid on some storm improvements, depending on the outcome we could look to incorporate into the existing contract as a change order, or we could rebid these as a separate project, or if we should program the money into the CIP as a 2013 project.

Councilmember McGlone's concern here is he looks at it as a yours, mine and ours want. At what point is a 100 or 500 year storm all our problem. He is wondering if this should be shared bill.

Chairperson Backous does agree with some of Councilmember McGlone's point, the golf course was built at a different time when there wasn't as much home, concrete and pavement and everything to drain that water from. That's the argument he would use against his argument.

Rum River Hills Golf Course spoke to explain where the water is coming from which showed that it is coming from the City drainage system.

Staff recommends authorizing preparation of plans and specification for these various improvements, and request authority to advertise for bids. Depending on current staff workload, on this project may have to be consulted out to the engineering pool for completion this year to avoid future flooding concerns on the golf course.

Motion by Chairperson Backous, seconded by Councilmember McGlone, to recommend to City Council that staff be authorized to prepare plans and specifications for these various improvements and authorization to advertise for bids.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

Chairperson Backous asked the golf course staff what is the preference to do these improvements.

There was discussion about late fall however there is a risk waiting until then.

City Engineer Himmer wanted to make it clear that these improvements are not going to alleviate all the flooding issues. If we get another 100 year events you design storm pipes for a 10 year rainfall, you design ponds to a 100 year event, the City was not involved in the design of these ponds, the rules back then were different.

**Case #5.3: Consider Stormwater Improvements at 148<sup>th</sup> Lane – A Continuation of Discussion Related to 2011 Flooding Concerns**

City Engineer Tim Himmer reviewed in his staff report that there is a low area across three lots south of 148<sup>th</sup> Lane that was created as a stormwater pond for the area and wetland mitigation for the development. There is a storm sewer inlet to this area along the west edge, which drains the subdivision to the north. There is also an outlet from this area on the east end that connects to a pipe that runs easterly and parallel to 148<sup>th</sup> Lane. The invert of this outlet pipe is approximately 2.5 feet above the low point in the basin. The outlet pipe also connects to a structure in the boulevard of 148<sup>th</sup> Lane that takes storm water runoff from the roadway and directs it easterly as described above. The inverts on both these pipes are at approximately the same elevations, and therefore water may be entering this basin that is not intended to flow there from the stormwater system. It was also observed that the basin has several undulations in the ground surface that do not allow the water to evenly spread out across the entire drainage and utility easement; basically there appears to be three separate, somewhat isolated basins.

Mr. Maul, 5590 148<sup>th</sup> Lane stated he prefers Option #3 in the proposal and along with that a backflow preventer and raise the elevation so the water can drain out.

Mr. Saba, 5630 148<sup>th</sup> Lane was present to discuss throughout the twenty five years all the sediment that is setting throughout the back of the homes.

Councilmember McGlone questioned the gate valve.

Motion by Chairperson Backous, seconded by Councilmember McGlone, to recommend to City Council staff's proposal to install a check valve in the storm pond outlet to block drainage from the street and only allow water to exit the basin through this structure, thereby eliminating additional flow to the area and include this as part of the change order to IP 12-24; 2012 Storm Sewer Improvements.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

This is being brought forward as a separate case at the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 City Council meeting.]

**Case #5.4 Consider the Installation of Stop Signs and an In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Sign near 150<sup>th</sup> Lane NW and Ute Street NW**

City Engineer Tim Himmer reviewed in the staff report that on April 3, 2012 staff received a petition signed by twelve property owners in the neighborhood near the intersection of 150<sup>th</sup> Lane NW and Ute Street NW. They are requesting the installation of stop signs at this intersection, consideration for the installation of an in street pedestrian crossing at the location of the existing City trail crossing on 150<sup>th</sup> Lane, and reduction of the speed limit on 150<sup>th</sup> Lane to 15mph.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone look at the possibility of raising striping to cingulate the choker and monitor it at the pedestrian crossing.

City Engineer Himmer stated this concerns him, the motorists will see striping however the pedestrian will see it as a choker and think they have the right to be standing in the street.

Councilmember McGlone withdrew his motion.

Motion by Chairperson Backous, seconded by Councilmember McGlone to recommend to City Council to have signage in both directions, look at the sight lines to push them out far enough in advance to caution of pedestrian crossing ahead.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

### **5.5 Discuss Trail Easement at 15620 Krypton Street**

City Engineer Tim Himmer reviewed in the staff report that the prospective buyers of the property at 15620 Krypton Street is concerned about having a trail through the center of the backyard and are requesting that the City relocate the trail into the easement along the common lot line.

City Engineer Himmer stated we could purchase the easement area at a reduced price, or do nothing and deal with it at a later date, or the City could come through and force it through eminent domain.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Backous upon closing would enter into agreement with the new homeowners to remove the bituminous in the yard, reestablish turf, and accept the pedestrian trail easement on the entire edge of property on their side.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

### **5.7 Consider Stormwater Improvements at 149<sup>th</sup> Lane – A Continuation of Discussion Related to 2011 Flooding Concerns**

City Engineer Tim Himmer reviewed this area is west of TH47 and east of 149<sup>th</sup> Lane, and the area in question is adjacent to the large DNR wetland that abuts TH47. The City Council accepted a petition on August 23, 2011 that was initiated by the resident at 5410 149<sup>th</sup> Lane NW. The homeowner contacted the City about water standing in their backyard. There is a draitile present across the neighboring lot to the south that connects this backyard to the DNR wetland. Stormwater and/or groundwater have flowed into the backyard, which is lower than the wetland in locations, and drainage and utility easements are recorded over this area on the property.

The DNR lists the normal water level of the wetland as 860.0, and there is a retaining wall with steps in the backyard with an elevation on the lowest step at approximately 860.1. The backyard

Slopes down to the east, away from the retaining wall, so there may be water present when the wetland is at normal elevation.

There is an outlet pipe under TH 47, with an outlet structure that controls the water elevation in the wetland. The lowest opening of the outlet structure was approximately 2 1/2 feet above the normal water elevation of the wetland at the time the elevated water concern was reported last summer. This structure was quickly modified to lower the outflow elevation, in an attempt to alleviate the high water concern, and the invert from the wetland is now approximately 10 inches above the normal water elevation.

For this project staff is proposing to remove the outlet control structure and 8 feet of pipe. We then propose to remove vegetation around this location, that may be impeding flow, and reinstall another section of pipe to create a flared end section outlet with an invert elevation of approximately 860 (the normal water level of the wetland).

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Backous to go with staff's recommendation to modify the outlet structure to lower the wetland outfall elevation, placement of a flared end section, and removal of vegetation around the outlet pipe and to include change order for City Council consideration.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmember McGlone. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Elvig.

This will be brought forward as a separate case at the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 City Council meeting.

## **COMMITTEE INPUT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Chairperson Backous to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner  
*City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary*