

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES (PWUC) COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 12th, 2024 5:30 p.m., Parkview Room

1. Roll call.

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Mr. Schindler

Present: Mr. Schindler, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Harley, Ms. Schneider, Mr. Zwirlein and Mr. Euell

Absent: Mr. Koleski

Also Present: Mr. Harrigan, Mr. Paul and Mr. Gesch from Ruckert-Mielke

2. Review and act on minutes for December 11th, 2023 Meeting.

Mr. Shepherd moved to approve the December 11th, 2023 minutes as written. Mr. Euell seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

3: Update on Highland Pathway

Mr. Gesch presented the 90% plans with interaction from committee members and discussion on aspects of stormwater conveyance, cross sloping and ditch grading. A discussion on the asphalt lined ditch near the intersection of Highland and Gebhardt were brought up to see if there would be any feasibility to incorporate any native plantings in that vicinity, though there are challenges with the ability for growth, stabilization from erosion and some maintenance. The committee wanted to ensure there were no impacts with stormwater on the residents which was assured by Mr. Gesch as he walked the committee through the rest of the plan set.

Mr. Gesch informed the committee that there would be a decent amount of small underbrush tree removal along this route but a majority of the larger trees would be staying as feasible. Ms. Schneider shared with the committee that in her experience, with every attempt to save a tree that is nearby an excavation/pathway, there will be damage to the tree and sometimes considerations to remove now as opposed to later may be better in the long run. Mr. Euell agreed and pointed out the root impact along the Legion Pathway and some of the trees that most recently fell in the Village as a result of the 1/15/24 storm.

Mr. Gesch has been in contact with the utilities as well as the railroad. Currently the State DOT who works as the Railroad's safety partner has reviewed the plans with minimal comments. Right now, we are awaiting permission and response from CP Rail. Once they provide approval the project it will be sent to the Commissioner of the Railroad asking to mandate this change to be made

Mr. Paul will be reaching out to Mrs. Erickson whom lives next to the crossing in regards to her lamp posts that are located in the ROW. Leaving them in the ROW will not allow for proper construction of the pathway.

Mr. Shepherd asked what would happen if the railroad delays the review and approval. Mr. Gesch mentioned that you can hold the bid response for 90-120 days (whatever we may want to place in the bid) and then either accept as is or rebid. Dependent on the Railroad's response, the impact to the plans will be minimal to change.

Future meetings for the PWUC will be on March 11th for the regular meeting and March 18th for a Special meeting relative to recommendation of the Pathway bid to the Board of Trustees.

4: Update on Municipal Water

Mr. Paul informed the committee that the City of Wauwatosa has accepted dedication of the water main along Watertown Plank Rd and safe samples have been achieved, allowing

the Watermark to proceed with their lateral connection. Samples from the connection to the Watermark will be determined by next week.

5. Update on Underwood Creek Daylighting

Mr. Harrigan informed the committee that there has been movement on the project as referenced in the Project Task Update document that was included in the packet for the evening. This document is intended to inform the committee of the progress of the Underwood Creek Daylighting Project.

Mr. Harrigan began by informing the committee that Mr. Schindler gave a presentation on the project to the Woman's Club with a solid audience attendance. The Village has engaged Stantec to establish weekly status meetings with a checklist of task updates. The stakeholders have been contacted and/or met with in person, all stakeholders showing support for the project. Ted Balistreri (who owns the Sendik's building) is having his engineers review the plans.

Staff has been in contact with CP rail to work through the real estate acquisition. The previous contact for CP Rail real estate has retired and the new contact is working through the process. Before the parcel is sold, the railroad has to review whether or not the abandoned spur will ever be recommissioned in the future. They also ask conservancy groups if they would be interested. In addition to these reviews, as they work through their due diligence process, they may also provide Phase 2 borings

The Referendum Questions for the ballot will not be ready for the ballot in April but will be ready for the next opportunity for the referendum question in August or September. Mr. Hector De la mora of Von Breisen confirmed the expenses that need to be totaled for the referendum which include cost of design, land acquisition and construction. (Original estimate was \$4.5M for construction)

Mr. Harley and Ms. Schneider inquired whether or not the next phase of the plan could indicate some of the amenities that may be part of the project to give a vision to those residents unfamiliar with engineering plans. Perhaps some idea to help with showing use and basically help clarify the vision of the project and how important it is to the downtown area and connection beyond the actual flood management aspect since this will have to go to referendum.

Mr. Zwirlein inquired if there could be a rough outline with time schedule like Mr. Gesch provided for the Highland Pathway Project allowing to easily communicate an idea of goals and timeline. Further discussion and inquiry were brought up to understand the impact of the timeline and how the grants are managed. Mr. Harrigan agreed that a timeline could be advantageous as we get a bit further with the current tasks and informed the committee that as long as we can demonstrate meaningful progress with the project that they will extend the grant money for the project which currently stands at approximately \$300K

6: Update from meeting with WE Energies

Mr. Harrigan informed the committee that WE Energies will be undertaking some large projects over the next couple of years to work towards reliability of services. Trustee Hillman was also in attendance for this meeting with WE Energies. A map was included to highlight the intended projects for 2024 and 2025 which includes both transitioning some feeder lines to underground as well as a lot of forestry work totaling around \$8M. Mr. Shepherd and other committee members inquired whether or not WE Energies could discuss what it would take to prioritize the issues the

Village has been experiencing. Mr. Harrigan informed the committee that WE Energies offered to meet with the Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

7: Update on PP I/I

Mr. Paul informed the committee that the contract for the additional lateral televising has been signed with Rozga Plumbing and coordination with homeowners will commence soon. The contract price for the lateral televising is \$17,200 and includes 11 properties in the target areas of the Squired Grove/Terrace area and Wrayburn. 12 residential properties that were selected to be part of the program either didn't return paperwork or had no interest in participating after numerous attempts of contact by staff and Ruekert-Mielke representatives.

8. Update from Sustainability Committee

Mr. Schindler informed the committee that there was no update at this time.

9: Update on Public Works Projects

Mr. Paul updated the committee that the DPW crews were still working their way through the Village handling hazard tree issues and would be transitioning into cleaning up ROW trees in the next week or so. There will be open Recycle Hours again this week after a good turn out on Saturday last weekend. DPW will be monitoring the intake of brush to ensure enough room to work before the brush grinding can take place.

Mr. Harrigan informed the committee that a Wauwatosa resident is scheduled to have a sanitary lateral repair along N. 124th St north of Watertown Plank Rd. There will be a traffic control operation and a watch dog/inspector from the pipeline.

10: Other Business

Mr. Paul informed the committee that he did speak with a project manager at Stark Pavement to inquire into bidding efficiencies. He was told they are happy to take bids at any time, but a majority of the competition is at the beginning of the new year and there is typically more competition. Sometimes midsummer is advantageous as well as contractors have a sense of where they are at with weather and projects that they already have in queue and may have interest in adding some more to the docket for the year.

11: Adjourn

Mr. Shepherd motioned and Mr. Zwirlein seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Paul, Jr.
Public Works Director