

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES (PWUC) COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 11th, 2024 5:30 p.m., Parkview Room

1. Roll call.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mr. Schindler

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Harrigan, Mr. Paul, Ms. Nott from USGS, Mr. Petersen from Ruckert-Mielke and Ms. Basemann from Sustainability Committee

2. Review and act on minutes for February 12th, 2023 Meeting.

The committee suggested some minor corrections. Mr. Koleski moved to approve the February 12th, 2023 minutes as amended. Mr. Zwirlein seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

3: Review and possible action on request by USGS to locate fish camera monitoring facilities at South Park

Mr. Schindler proposed a change in the agenda to move the USGS request up to the 3rd order of business. Mr. Zwirlein moved and Mr. Shepherd seconded. Motion carried 7-0. The USGS is requesting the placement of a fish camera at the south park facility to establish a baseline on fish activity. Ms. Nott explained physical attributes of infrastructure for the 2 fish cams. Looking for a rough count of the large fish (Northern Pike and Salmon) presence/absence coming up from Lake Michigan. Downstream there are a lot of impassable reaches (concrete lined) and they want to monitor the changes in fish population as restoration convenes. Unlike Thiensville fish ladder surveillance AI onto camera, this will be monitored by staff.

Mr. Koleski asked what, if any, maintenance requirements would be required from the Village. Ms. Nott there would not be any unless a link from the website could be added as it would helpful to get the word out.

Ms. Nott explained funding end in 2025, hoping to get more funding in the next 5-year cycle. If USGS ends up losing funding, USGS will come and remove everything in its entirety.

Mr. Harley inquired whether the cameras were small enough to be unnoticeable to deter the possibility of vandalism. Ms. Nott confirmed and said they were quality US made cameras.

Mr. Harrigan noted that if the Committee desires to recommend approval of the monitoring station to the Board of Trustees for approval, a location agreement will need to be drafted which specifies the approved location of the equipment and the duration that it will be onsite. This will need to be reviewed by the Village Attorney. Ms. Nott stated there are agreements for their rain gauge stations but not necessarily for the fish cams.

Mr. Koleski motioned to approve application for a fish monitoring station subject to any agreements required by Village Attorney, seconded by Mr. Eull. Motion carried 7-0.

4: Review and possible action on 90% Highland Dr Culvert Replacement Plans

Andy Petersen of Ruckert-Mielke presented the 90% plan set and addressed comments from the committee that were incorporated into the plan. Mr. Petersen and Mr. Harrigan confirmed that the Village did send out notices to residents in the project corridor, specifically to announce the anticipated road closure. A response/inquiry was received from the property owner of 1900 Highland Dr. voicing support of the project but asked for clarification of the access to their property/driveway and mailbox during construction. Mr. Petersen indicated a note will be added to the plans to remind the contractor. There will always be an option for the resident to access at least one of the two driveways on either side of the culvert/construction site.

Mr. Petersen indicated that the detour plan was sent to Waukesha County for review, as they hold control of both North Ave (CTH YY) and Pilgrim Rd (CTH M), he is not expecting much issue.

Mr. Petersen informed the committee that the beam guard was removed from behind the pathway and relocated to the front of the pathway per committee comments. Mr. Petersen indicated that it would be closer to the roadway but set back properly. It does work to better protect the path users in conjunction with the wooden railing along the backside of the pathway. This was another inclusion after feedback from the committee and it would be similar to that on Elm Grove Rd in Brookfield south of Bluemound Rd.

Mr. Petersen also indicated that the hand railing will be modified to meet the 42" height as required and he confirmed with the committee that using green treated lumber per design in plans was acceptable.

Mr. Schindler inquired whether or not the fence will require any review, and Mr. Harrigan confirmed it would not as it is located within the Village right-of-way. The committee agreed to specify the green treated wood materials after a brief discussion on other materials and the costs associated.

When researching alternatives to classic "W" rail beam guard, the wood railing would not really suffice as a crash barrier, and the galvanized steel example wasn't found to be available in this application. Three things that lead to drive this decision to go with the "W" beam guard included anything different would be costly, we wouldn't know the schedule/lead time to get materials on a custom build and maintenance of the "W" beam guard would be easier and less costly to replace/repair as the material acquisition would be local and parts would be more easily accessible.

Mr. Petersen also confirmed that the granular backfill was specified in the bid but a slurry backfill will be added as an optional bid item per request from the committee. The Pilgrim Parkway culvert, which was similar to this project utilized compacted granular backfill and is holding up well as we near a 10-year mark.

As far as utility conflicts go, there are none, however some will be encountered during project excavation. There is a telecom line on the east side of the roadway that after further discussion with AT&T and WE Energies are not identifying it as their property. If once the project is underway and it is identified as abandoned, it can be recorded with the proper utility at that time.

Ms. Schneider inquired whether or not the DNR made a determination yet. In regards to the DNR approval, there has been a game of phone tag for the pre-construction meeting. The schedule is likely to be at the end of the week, and the goal is to find out the impact that this project would have on the waterway and wetlands.

In regards to the project cost estimate, as of early January, the estimate was \$190K, and after working through the most up to date costs the new estimate is about \$197K with a 10% contingency. One cost increase resulted from adding the mandatory alternate of the slurry backfill which adds approximately \$15K to the price.

Mr. Koleski asked what we were seeing in regards to inflation. Mr. Petersen felt there really was not anything necessarily and paving projects are coming in decently as well.

Ms. Schneider wanted to confirm we are going with the 36" pipe, to which Mr. Petersen confirmed that is currently called out however that could change based on the upcoming discussion with DNR. They may request to oversize and fill in bottom for fish passage, but that would lead to a conflict with sanitary sewer and thus is hoping the 36" would be approved. If it is required, there will be a bid item for a sanitary sewer spot repair.

Mr. Harley inquired about the retaining wall design and approval. Mr. Petersen stated they are landscape blocks, similar to that on Gebhardt and the contractor will need to provide a plan as part of the submittal.

The project is on track for project letting on March 20th with an April 3rd bid opening.

Mr. Harley motioned and Mr. Zwirlein seconded to approve the 90% Highland Dr Culvert Replacement Plans for bidding. Motion carried 7-0.

5: Update from Sustainability Committee - – Review and possible action on recommendation from the Sustainability Committee to amend Village Ordinance 335-65 Outdoor Lighting.

The Sustainability Committee brought forth recommended updates to the Village's Outdoor Lighting ordinance. The Committee reviewed the proposed amendments with the Sustainability Committee representative Deb Basemann.

Mr. Shepherd was unaware that there was existing light pollution in the Village and is not aware of where it may be an issue currently. He stated he has never been approached about it in the past. Depending on the degree of need of updating the ordinance, if there are no teeth to it, and no enforcement, it may not be advantageous to go down this road. Ms. Basmann provided an example on Highland Dr, stating there was so much lighting that there is lighting aiming upwards unnecessarily. She felt it would be helpful to educate residents on the impact that the lighting has on people's yards, insects, wildlife, etc. This movement is supported by the birders asked this to be more prevalent and asking, the more research the more,

Mr. Koleski asked to confirm the message we are trying to convey. He pointed out that there appears to be more ambiguity with some of the current requirements and posed the question about using this information as education vs. changing the ordinance.

Ms. Schneider noted that there are not any complaints, but the need for understanding the impact on eco systems is important and that it would be helpful to promote best practices to the maximum extent practicable.

Mr. Koleski was concerned with not wanting to drive up unnecessary costs into a project, but understands the encouragement of best practices.

Mr. Eull noted the concern of hard requirement vs. best practice, stating the usage of the word "should" right next to a "shall" needs to be clarified and understood how that impacts the process and intended purpose. Mr. Eull likes the goals of it but concerned about level of interpretation of it. There is some very specific detail, but feels it could be modified to better convey the intent.

Mr. Shepherd added concern that it begins to read as an HOA, and will drive complaints to staff who are already taxed with work and stated that the education curve comes from neighbors pointing fingers at other neighbors.

Ms. Schneider and Ms. Basemann informed the committee that there are a number of groups that are very supportive of this effort to educate and prevent issues in the future that could be handled now.

Mr. Shepherd suggested it may be helpful to summarize these more suggestive items into a subsection to educate.

Mr. Zwirlein applauds everything that the Sustainability Committee is undertaking but feels there could be more impact from educating residents on the negative impact of spraying lawns, vs. lighting in regards to the impact on insect communities and other wildlife.

Ms. Basemann stated in an ideal world, the Building Board would ask the builder to consider these items when presenting a project.

Mr. Schindler stated that the science is clear about the impact and we as a Village should be supporting these efforts and agreed that perhaps a separate section/Sub section to meet initiatives and requirements would be the next step agreeing that editing it to make it more suggestive than required may be more palatable.

Mr. Harley feels this is out of the purview of this committee and should probably be discussed with the Board of Trustees as a first step.

Mr. Koleski feels there needs to be some stepping into this to provide more feedback into the resident pool. A phased approach, in a newsletter, to communicate what the Sustainability Committee is looking into, etc. with awareness before effort, before it becomes an ordinance. Mr. Koleski feels that sharing positions will help to build momentum.

Ms. Basemann felt it was good to start here with Public Works but will go to Building Board as well for feedback and proposal.

An acknowledgement that it will take some time to better define the scope was agreed upon by the committee.

Item 6: Update on WE Energies resiliency efforts in Elm Grove

A reminder to committee members that representatives from WE Energies will be in attendance at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Those who wish to join the meeting are very welcome to do so. Committee members who wish to provide any questions should do so via e-mail prior to the meeting.

Item 7: Update on Underwood Creek Daylighting Project

Staff held a conference call with CP Rail and our engineering consultant from Stantec, Rich Klein, on March 1, 2024. CP Rail indicated they are in the due diligence phase of determining if the decommissioned rail spur the Village desires to purchase is truly “abandoned” in the eyes of the Federal Government. CP has committed to providing the Village with a response by Friday, March 15, 2024.

Mr. Koleski complimented the article and presentation that Mr. Schindler has been working on and was informed by resident of the positive feedback.

There will be a meeting with the Business Association on May 1st to discuss the impacts of the construction.

9: Update on Public Works Projects

Mr. Paul informed the committee that there was an inquiry from a potential bidder on the Highland Dr Pathway Project inquiring about the ability to post “Road Closed to thru Traffic” to help deter some traffic in an effort to keep down costs with flaggers and other traffic control.

The committee discussed the enforcement challenges, but understood the reasons and wanted to be certain that there would be communication with the Western Racquet Club to ensure less negative impact on residents and visitors. Mr. Harrigan and Mr. Paul will reach out to Timon Corwin from the club to keep them informed.

Mr. Paul informed the committee that the DPW has been able to keep ahead of brush handling and will be starting a special pick up of brush the week of 3/25/24 in order to get ahead of the regular brush pick up schedule to ensure we can get to everything in as timely as a manner as possible.

Mr. Koleski inquired about the sewer pump SCADA project and how it was performing. Mr. Paul informed the committee that it was recently completed with programming and working out a few glitches and with the exception of the need to replace a flow meter (which was not part of the original project) everything seems to be working as expected. Spring will be the best test as that is when these systems are in use the most. The DPW is impressed with the system as it sits right now and feels confident in its intended execution.

10: Other Business

A student resident from UW-Milwaukee whom was in attendance asked if she may inquire about the Highland Dr. pathway, as she was a commuter who utilized the bus lines.

11: Adjourn

Mr. Zwirlein motioned and Mr. Harley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully. Submitted
Richard Paul, Jr.
Public Works Director