

**CITY OF RHINELANDER  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2011 – 4:30-5:30 PM  
Public Works Building, 644 Washington Street**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mark Pelletier, Tom Gleason and Joe Salzer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sherrie Belliveau and Sonny Paszak.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Dick Johns, Public Works Director Randy Knuth and Kyle Rogers of the Northwoods River News.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Mark Pelletier called the meeting to order. The media was notified, the agenda was posted and a quorum was present to do business.

**Review Minutes of March 31, 2011**

**MOTION BY SALZER, SECOND BY GLEASON, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 31, 2011 MINUTES. 3 AYE, 0 NAY, 2 ABSENT (BELLIVEAU, PASZAK); MOTION CARRIED.**

**Departmental Activity Report**

Public Works Director Randy Knuth presented his monthly activity report.

**Unfinished Business** - None.

**New Business**

**Discuss DPW cost saving measures for 2012 and beyond**

Randy Knuth provided information on 6 items previously discussed by the Council.

1. Contract DPW services – not recommended. Randy stated that he is concerned that his Department is the only one that this has been suggested for. Joe Salzer noted that he was the one who brought this up, based on Public Works being the department with the most overlap with the private sector. Randy feels any layoffs in his Department would seriously hurt the city. Right after the special Council meeting, Rice Lake Alderman Dave Armstrong contacted Randy with questions on how we do things. Rice Lake previously contracted out, and they're now looking at combining some departments and building their crews up again. Contracting has not worked out, as Rice Lake has been paying hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for engineering services.
2. Contract RFP for vehicle maintenance contracts, city wide – not recommended. Randy stated there's too much diversity in City equipment for any one place to be knowledgeable for all pieces of machinery and electronics; nor can the City afford the testing equipment and training of employees to diagnose all potential electronics problems in each individual piece of machinery. Randy feels the Department Heads need to bring their specialized needs to whoever is most qualified to do the job at the most reasonable price. He noted that other Departments are welcome to bring their vehicles to the City Shop for general maintenance.

3. Create a storm water utility – recommended – remove \$166,516 from DPW budget.
4. Have garbage contractor direct bill city residents for garbage/recycling pickup – recommended - remove \$310,000 from DPW budget. We are currently paying \$6.74 per customer; this would be a huge help to the budget, with very little impact to the citizens. There are plenty of cities where the residents are paying 100%
5. Create a street light utility – recommended – remove \$163,000 from DPW budget. Rice Lake has one.
6. Eliminate janitorial service – recommended – City Crews will clean office areas – remove \$4,200 from DPW budget.

### **Matters of Emergency/Informational Nature**

Randy noted that Sonny Paszak had complained about the Eagle Street rail crossing. Randy and Steve Kienitz looked at it and Steve determined that there was no issue with the bed or rails themselves, but the approaches need work. Randy wrote to the railroad and asked if they can make the repairs; he offered to provide traffic control while the work is done.

### **Consideration of Bills & Claims**

**MOTION BY PELLETIER, SECOND BY SALZER, TO APPROVE BILLS AND CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,524.47 AND RECOMMEND THEM TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. 3 AYE, 0 NAY, 2 ABSENT (BELLIVEAU, PASZAK); MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Future Agenda Requests and Meeting Date**

#### **Future Agenda Requests**

1. Discuss Garbage/Recycling Options
2. Lincoln Street Update

**Meeting Date** - the next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY GLEASON, SECOND BY SALZER, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 28, 2011 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:30 P.M. 3 AYE, 0 NAY, 2 ABSENT (BELLIVEAU, PASZAK); MOTION CARRIED.**

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Received By \_\_\_\_\_