

**CITY OF RHINELANDER  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 – 4:30-6:10 PM**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sherrie Belliveau.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Dick Johns, Public Works Director Randy Knuth, City Administrator Blaine Oborn, Randy Rebane of XST, Kyle Rogers of the Northwoods River News and Police Chief Mike Steffes.

**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 of Past Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION BY PASZAK, SECOND BY GLEASON, TO APPROVE THE JULY 28, 2011 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES. 4 AYE, 0 NAY, 1 ABSENT (BELLIVEAU); MOTION CARRIED.**

**Departmental Activity Report**

Public Works Director Randy Knuth presented his monthly activity report.

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**New Business**

**Discuss railing condition of Phillip St. Bridge and possible improvements**

Randy advised that it's been more than 25 years since these railings were painted, and they are very rusted. Randy Rebane of XST has proposed a special treatment for the railings, so Randy is bringing it to the Committee to see if they are interested in pursuing it, and if so, to discuss how to pay for it.

Randy Rebane stated that the railings on both sides, as well as the uprights down to where they connect with the bridge, are included in his proposal. The coating he's proposing is a hybrid poly base that is 100% solid, so nothing can ever penetrate it. He stated that the material will be as hard as tile, but remain very flexible.

Mark Pelletier asked about graffiti. Mr. Rebane stated that nothing likes to stick to this material, so it's easily cleaned off. It's also easy to repair; any damaged area could be cut out and patched. He noted that the manufacturer automatically gives a 10-year warranty, and offers additional warranties dependent upon the use.

Tom Gleason asked if the rust would be removed before the coating is applied. Mr. Rebane stated that the product will seal in rust and prevent additional rust from forming, but in this case, we would apply the coating after the metal is sandblasted, as we don't want anything to possibly compromise the integrity of the product on a safety item such as this.

The cost estimate is \$38,500. The railings will be removed and safety barriers set in place, the railings taken to the shop for sandblasting and coating, and then reinstalled on the bridge; it should take 4 to 5 days to complete. It was noted that if the work is done with the railings left in place, there will be DNR permits and issues involved, and the bridge would need to be completely encapsulated during the work, closing it off to traffic.

Mark Pelletier asked how we would pay for this, and if there are other alternatives. Randy Knuth stated that we could budget for this project; another option would be to use some money from his reserve account. As to alternatives, Randy noted that we used our own crews to hand-paint the railings about 25 years ago; the front side of the railing is easy to do, but the back side is more difficult; he remembers being in a boat beneath the bridge, with one employee holding the boat in place and another doing the painting. This is dangerous, especially being in the area of the dam. In addition, painting won't protect the railings as well or for as long as this type of coating would. Randy noted that DNR regulations are much tighter now; the water has to be protected. Randy wasn't sure how much it would cost to hire a contractor to spray paint it, but again, it wouldn't be as durable. Randy stated that he sees this as a permanent fix, not requiring any maintenance unless the railings get damaged somehow.

Joe Salzer would like to see a cost comparison with sandblasting and painting, noting that if we can get 20 years for \$38,500, we should look at what it would cost for a solution that will last 10 years. Joe asked about the condition of the railings themselves. Mr. Rebane stated that once you put this coating on, the railings will not deteriorate any further. Blaine Oborn asked if the coating meets DOT standards; Mr. Rebane stated that the DOT uses these types of coatings on their own bridge projects, but he is currently working with the County and DOT to ensure this. Blaine asked if there are any grant funds available for this; Randy stated that he will check on it.

Randy will check to see if there are any painting contractors that may be interested in this project; however, with on-site painting, the DNR will definitely be involved. He noted that he used one of Mr. Rebane's coatings on one of the new dump trucks we purchased this year. It was applied under the box and up the sides where the trucks tend to rust the most, to see how well the coating works.

Discuss/approve Musson's bid of \$167,500.00 for 25,000 cubic yards of gravel

Randy noted that Musson's was the only bidder, at \$6.70 per cubic yard. Randy would like to purchase 25,000 cubic yards, which is a 2 to 3 year supply, at a total cost \$167,500.

**MOTION BY GLEASON, SECOND BY PASZAK, TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF 25,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRAVEL FROM MUSSON'S, FUNDS TO COME FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS RESERVE ACCOUNT. 4 AYE, 0 NAY, 1 ABSENT (BELLIVEAU); MOTION CARRIED.**

Discuss DPW 2012 budget

Randy reviewed the various line items with the Committee, including spraying/patching, janitorial, estimated fuel costs and crack sealing.

Randy distributed a list of equipment needs included in his proposed Machinery & Equipment budget. Blaine noted that it's sometimes more cost-effective to lease major equipment items. Joe Salzer stated that he would like Randy to come up with a long-term equipment replacement plan, to try to come up with a rough cost over 10 years as to what all our equipment will cost.

Parks Director Gunder Paulsen has asked Randy if he could purchase a Bobcat skid steer; with the attachments, it would be about \$22,500. Gunder could use this piece of equipment for clearing sidewalks in the winter, as it's narrower than our existing Tool Cat. Randy noted that last year, the Tool Cat was out of service for a couple of weeks, which really impacted our ability to keep the sidewalks clean. Tom Gleason stated that it cost about \$1,000 per week to rent a replacement. Randy noted that the Tool Cat is also too wide to use on the bridges, so we've been doing that with snow blowers.

Randy reported that he just learned this week that we'll need to replace our truck radios; we are being forced to go to narrow band frequency. Has an estimate for 31 radios, with installation, for \$13,200. Blaine noted that Marathon County budgeted this for municipalities within the county, and wondered if there are any funds at the Oneida County level to help with this. Mike Steffes stated that he doesn't think so, noting that the Police Department's radios were replaced through the County in 2007; however, he will start researching this tomorrow to see if there are any public safety grant funds available.

For street cleaning - vehicle repair & maintenance, Randy had budgeted \$3,000, but has now learned that the street sweeper is due for a complete overhaul. The parts would be purchased and the DPW will do the work; the estimated cost is \$8,000.

Randy also reviewed the Snow & Ice budget fuel costs and electricity for street lights.

Randy distributed a list projecting potential cost savings of \$395,000 with the implementation of a storm water utility, and taking garbage collection off the tax roll. He has also been working with Blaine on other options.

Randy then reviewed his reserve accounts with the Committee.

Randy noted that we've always known we would need to borrow money for the Barnes Street project. He has calculated the City's share for storm sewers and street work, and estimated the balance to be billed by the DOT; this will come in just under \$630,000 after the grant funds are applied. Randy noted that the bills have already been paid with money from the General Fund, so we need to reimburse ourselves.

With regard to the Lincoln Street project, Randy reported that the DOT gave its approval today to award the contract to Musson's. Musson's hopes to start the job on 9/12/11. The total cost of this project is just under \$652,000, subject to any change orders. Under the grant, the City has to pay the costs up-front; once we spend \$652,000, we can request the \$390,000 in grant funding. The \$261,000 difference is the City's share.

**Matters of Emergency/Informational Nature** – None.

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

**MOTION BY PASZAK, SECOND BY GLEASON, TO APPROVE BILLS AND CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$237,288.86 AND RECOMMEND THEM TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. 4 AYE, 0 NAY, 1 ABSENT (BELLVEAU); MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Future Agenda Requests – None.

### Meeting Date

- Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY GLEASON, SECOND BY SALZER, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 6:10 P.M. 4 AYE, 0 NAY, 1 ABSENT (BELLIVEAU); MOTION CARRIED.**

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

mlr