

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1/16/24

Meeting called to order by Dougherty at 9:03am

Present: Ted Dougherty, Liam DelMain, Nancy Pearson, Diane Fizell

City Employees: Tom Kovachecich, Mike Burg, Josh Pearson, Dakota Weeks

Public: Mayor Gordy

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting - Approved

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No Public Comments

1. Old Business

- a. Utility Operator - Mike is taking over Josh's old position at the treatment plant, we are now advertising for the Utility Operator position, applications due Feb 15th. Packets are at city hall and some people have been coming to get them.
- b. Manypenny Ave - We put our LRIP application in for the Manypenny project. Washburn wasn't willing to give up the preference to us, so we flipped a coin and they won the toss. Doesn't mean we won't get funded, but it makes it less likely. We will just have to wait and see.

We had a phone conference with the engineer for the project. We put in a budget to do this project and borrow for it, and we also have an application with the army corps of engineers for some money from the project 154 fund. If we do end up getting state money for the project, the parameters of design could expand, i.e. adding a bike lane or some such. Strand, the engineering firm, is scheduling out inspectors for the season already, so if we want to get scheduled in this year we have to make a decision on the project plan somewhat soon. The question is, do we wait to see if we get funding from the state and maybe push it back another year? Or just prioritize getting it done as is?

Context: the money from the army corps also depends on the federal government approving the infrastructure spending bill, which has yet to happen. We don't really know how long we would be waiting, but army corps did say they think April.

{discussion}

Motion by DelMain to wait until hearing back from the army corps about the project 154 grant before moving forward on the Manypenny Ave project, and committing some money to making

the road safer this year. All in favor.

2. Public Works Director - Plow Truck
 - a. The new plow truck and all the new snow plow equipment has been ordered, but is probably 20 weeks out.
3. Utility Operator Report
 - a. Next week on Tuesday we are scheduled to have the lift station meter replaced, which has been there since the early 2000's.
4. Excel Power to Madeline Island
 - a. Excel power is planning to lay a new large power cable from Bayfield to Madeline Island. They are planning to put in a manhole on the inside edge of Front St. where it meets Washington, and setting up their transformer and everything underground. Then they will directionally drill a pipe 50 ft under the road out to the water, where it will come out 50-100 ft from shore and daylight across the channel to the island. They have said that they will abandon the old line, and remove some of the old transformer boxes on the shoreline. We are hoping they will fix the hole that is left in our breakwall. They will also take down some power utility poles on 1st St. This work goes off the basic ongoing utility work permit that excel has with the city.
5. PSC Rate Increase
 - a. In October we approved a 3% rate increase for sewer. The Public Service Commission has approved an 8% increase in water. It will go into effect early February, people won't see it on their bill until April. Numbers for new rates are included in the meeting packet. Fire protection is included in the rate increase, which is paid from the general fund through the fire department.
6. Set Next Meeting
 - a. Next meeting will be set for February 20th at 9am.

Motion to adjourn by Fizell, seconded by DelMain. All in favor.