

Joint Public Utilities/Public Works Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom by Village Trustee Justin Rupert. Roll call: Rupert, Trustee Eric Kryzenske, Trustee Carolyn Clow, Chris Fredrick, Marc Nielsen, Mary Pat Lytle, Christopher Reynolds, Pauline Boness (arrived at 7 p.m.), Jerry Adrian, Peter Robinson.

Staff present: Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator; Jim Hessling, Public Works Director; Lee Igl, Streets and Utilities Superintendent; and Phil McDade, public works staff. Also, Brian Berquist and Tim Stieve, both of Town & Country Engineering, consultants for the village.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. BUSINESS.

a. Public Information Meeting regarding Exchange Street project. The Exchange Street project involves a total reconstruction of the street from Sleepy Hollow Road to its intersection with Farwell and Bashford streets, according to Berquist. Work would include a new road, as well as new underground water, sewer, and stormwater utility lines and services. The project length is approximately 4,200 feet, or 8/10ths of a mile. The village has secured a \$1.18 million grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to help offset the cost of the project. Total construction project cost is \$4.8 million. The project would include curb and gutter replacement, bicycle lanes, sidewalk replacement on the south side of the street, and the potential of a sidewalk constructed on the north side of the street. In addition, postal service boxes are likely to be consolidated in groups of four or more, rather than replaced in their original location. Between 13 and 15 trees along Exchange Street have been initially identified as possibly needing to be cut down for the project, and that number could increase or decrease based on selected design. Local traffic, including access in and out of driveways on the street, will be maintained during the construction project. Final design plans would likely be done in May of 2023, with construction beginning in the spring of 2024.

Questions and concerns raised by residents:

- Debra Kloth, 6417 Exchange St.: Will electrical and other utility lines be buried as part of the project? Schuenke, village administrator: The village hopes to coordinate work with utilities serving the village on burying electrical and utility lines, and the village has told utility companies its preference is to have them buried as part of the project.
- Monica Belle, 6116 Exchange St.: Would the width of the road differ depending on the installation of a sidewalk on the north side of the street? Berquist: The current street is 43 feet wide; the project envisions a road width of 47 feet. The Exchange Street right-of-way – the width of the street where the village can make public improvements – is 66-feet wide, and the remaining portions of the right-of-way beyond the 47-foot-wide street would encompass bicycle lanes, street parking, grassy terrace areas, and sidewalks.
- Natalie Santini, 6112 Exchange St.: It appears my front lawn will be cut in two with the sidewalk; how do you balance private property vs. what the community wants? Do we even have a say in this? I would hate to lose trees for a sidewalk. Schuenke: The village plans to work within the current available 66-foot-wide right-of-way, and has no plans to acquire private property for the

project. Input from citizens during these hearings will be helpful in guiding the village's decision regarding sidewalks, he said.

- Dawn DeFoer, 6409 Exchange St.: Impressed with the thought that's gone into the project. I'd like to see power lines buried on the street. Appreciates the desire to keep tree loss to a minimum. Exchange Street has lots of children walking on it to and from nearby schools, and anything to slow down traffic on the street, such as bump-outs shown near crosswalks, would be appreciated. Also highlighted current storm-water drainage challenges on Exchange Street near its intersection with Jaeger Road.
- Tiffany Dahl, 6216 Exchange St.: Said her questions about trees had been answered.
- James Kaufman, 6509 Exchange St.: Will there be any additional charge to individual property owners for sidewalk additions? Shuenke: No.
- Debra Kloth, 6417 Exchange St.: Will trees be planted on the new terrace between the street and a new sidewalk on the north side of Exchange Street? Schuenke: Yes, absolutely, at appropriate distances apart for new plantings.
- Stephanie Bolle, 6116 Exchange St.: When was the last time the centerline of Exchange Street was identified? Berquist: That will be identified through a survey as the project progresses.

Questions from committee members:

- Marc Nielsen: Will residents be able to plant trees before construction begins if they know they will be losing a tree because of the construction? Berquist: Yes, just contact Town & Country Engineering to coordinate.
- Carolyn Clow: Can you explain the prolonged planning process for this, with construction not slated until 2024? Berquist: Accepting state and federal grant money to help offset the project cost requires a rigorous set of checks and balances with state and possibly federal transportation officials. Issues such as Native American and historic sites near the street corridor may need to be thoroughly investigated. Ten-foot wide vehicle lanes, as the initial project design envisions, likely needs state Department of Transportation assessment and approval, as normal lane width is 11 feet.
- Clow: Are sidewalks required on both sides of the street? Berquist: The village would have to work with Wisconsin DOT to see if not building a sidewalk on the north side of the street would impact overall funding of the project. The Exchange Street project scored high on the competitive grant rankings for street projects funded by the Department of Transportation because it lacked a sidewalk on one side, and the DOT has a strong preference for urban road improvements to include pedestrian sidewalks and bike paths on both sides of the road. A decision by the village to not include a sidewalk on one side of the street would "need to be made soon," he said.
- Nielsen: Will there be upgrades of street lights as part of the project. Schuenke. Yes, street light improvements are included.
- Chris Fredrick: Urged village staff to have discussions with the McFarland School District to make sure long-term improvements on Exchange Street align with the district's long-term designs for the area.
- Jerry Adrian: Urged that project managers put in place caution areas during the project near the two school entrances on Exchange Street. Berquist said that would be done.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the award of contract for the County Highway MN project. Stieve said the village received 10 bids for the project, which will improve County Highway MN from its intersection with Holscher Road moving east to North Peninsula Way. The bid package included work on the road itself, plus alternate bids for four related, optional projects. Town & Country Engineering recommended that the village award the contract to S & L Underground, Inc., of Lodi, for \$510,401.17 for road improvements and alternate bids for pedestrian improvements (alternate bid 1) and parking areas (alternate bid 3). Boness motioned, Adrian seconded, to recommend to the village board acceptance of the road construction bid and alternate bids 1 and 3 for \$510,401.17 to S & L Underground, Inc., of Lodi. Motion approved 10-0-0.

c. Discussion regarding asset management. Hessling gave an overview of what the village currently has and uses along with what other communities use. Committee members discussed asset management with Hessling, Igl, and Berquist, with an emphasis on using GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping to inventory items such as: village roads and road conditions; utility infrastructure; and trees and other park amenities. There was no action taking by the joint committee on this agenda item.

d. Presentation of the Public Works Monthly report. Hessling said all staff had moved back into the Public Works building on Terminal Drive after work done on the building this summer and fall. Solar panels are now installed, and plan to be authorized soon for use. Village staff have been working on tree-trimming, and have worked on four snowfall events in January.

4. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Public Works Committee: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- Public Utilities Committee: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT. Adrian moved, Boness seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 10-0-0; meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.