

**Village of Holmen
Public Works Committee
March 7, 2013**

Chairman Mike Dunham called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday March 7, 2013. Members present: Forde and Olson. Also present: Administrator Scott Heinig, Director of Public Works Dean Olson, Ald. Diane Wulf (Onalaska), Sarah Townsend, Brad Williams and Randy Erickson.

Motion by Forde, seconded by Dunham, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2013 meeting - carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Director's Monthly Report

Sanitary Sewer Department

The WWTP has been operating well in the last month. A copy of the Wastewater Facility Plan has been provided for all Board members for their review. This information will be discussed at the April meeting for recommendation to the Board. A Public Hearing will also be scheduled for the April Board meeting to give people an opportunity to present concerns or questions.

Water Department

We had received complaints of discolored water near in Evergreen Elementary school area. Having some warmer temperatures allowed us the opportunity to open a hydrant and flush the line to help clear the system. This seems to have addressed the immediate concern, but we will be taking a look at the system to see if there is anything else that can be done to prevent this from happening. On Monday the 25th, we found a water main leak at the intersection of Hwy 35 and Staphorst Lane. We were able to stop the leaking area by shutting off the valve that is on the line that heads north to the TID#2 area. Since there are no users on that line we felt I had the opportunity to leave the line turned off and schedule a more appropriate time to address the situation. I contacted Steve Haas, the contractor that installed this line in 2010 and asked him to meet with me regarding the possible repairs needed, The line that will need to be repaired is also a main that was installed by directional bore method, the same as the problem we experienced and fixed last fall. I plan to work with Steve Haas to get this area repaired as well as have other similar areas re-tested to assure they are sound.

Street Department

Repeated snow events have once again required staff for plowing and sanding as needed. Many of these snow events have been too little to plow, so we sanded intersections. Our crew is working to open storm inlets and gutters in advance of the warmer weather and possible rain events this coming weekend. Director Olson attended a DOT symposium at the La Crosse DOT office related to funding opportunities and a certification training at the Madison office for non-traditional projects. There are no sidewalk issues to report at this time.

Storm Water Department

Chipping continues on a monthly basis. We are looking at the schedule for opening the compost site. Last year, it was opened on March 24th, but it will probably be early to mid-April this year.

Action Items

Recommend to Village Board – Modifications to Well House Fluoridation equipment (Tabled at 2/7/13 meeting) – Motion by Olson, seconded by Dunham to take this item off the table – carried unanimously. A proposal from Davy Engineering was presented for the design fee of \$6,000 to modify the fluoridation equipment to meet the Board directive to use Sodium Fluoride. Director Olson gave background regarding the need for this item. The change in chemical will require a re-design of the fluoridation process as well as submittal to the DNR for approval. The cost for modifications to the wells to install the new equipment is estimated at between \$60,000 and \$72,000. Member Forde did not feel it was appropriate to spend the additional funds to modify the system. Member Olson also voiced concerns regarding replacement of a system that the Village spent over \$100,000 to install initially and was not able to use. Chair Dunham indicated that since sodium fluoride is used in toothpaste, it is a common method of fluoridation through the dental industry. He then asked if the cost for these changes was budgeted and how the Village would pay for the modifications. DPW Olson clarified this was not something that was anticipated for the 2013 budget and additional funds would have to come from the reserve within the Water Utility. DPW Olson commented there is a difference between topical application of fluoride and fluoride that is ingested. There are currently no public water systems in the State that use sodium fluoride for the process. DPW Olson also stated he did not feel comfortable with the chemical and how it may affect the water system. Chair Dunham felt the initial design process should have been monitored more closely by the Board and Public Works committee to have the opportunity to provide more input on the type of process to be designed. Chair Dunham then asked all that were in favor of proceeding with the change in chemical please signify by saying aye – Dunham was the only vote. Members Forde and Olson voted against, resulting in a recommendation to the Board to deny this proposal.

Discussion – Proposed resolution for a referendum on the April Election (Tabled at the 2/7/13 meeting) – Motion by Dunham, seconded by Olson to take this item off the table – carried unanimously. This item was referred to committee from the Special Board meeting on January 17, 2013. The language referred to placing an item on the ballot for the April election. Since the ballot has been finalized, this item cannot be accomplished. All in favor of proceeding with this discussion – none; opposed unanimous.

Discussion –Possible Recommend to Village Board – to consider a future referendum on fluoridation , at a date to be determined by the Board. – This item was requested to be placed on the Agenda for consideration. Chair Dunham made a motion to have staff formulate language for a future referendum to be placed on the April, 2014 ballot. The item failed due to the lack of a second.

Adjourn

Motion by Olson, seconded by Forde to adjourn at 7:15 PM - carried unanimously.

Dean K. Olson
Director of Public Works