

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2010
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Members Present

Mayor Paul Skrede, Jon Monson, Teresa Pendleton, Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow, John Menzel, Police Chief Cory Johnson, City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

None

Stop Signs at Northome Blvd & Deephaven Avenue (Scott Boynton)

Discussion continued regarding Scott Boynton's (18950 Northome Blvd) request for the City to install additional stop signs at the three-way intersection of Northome Blvd & Deephaven Avenue.

Dana Young stated that the Committee has had ample opportunity to review this request over the past two months. He stated that the Police Department has installed the traffic monitor closer to the intersection in order to get more accurate readings of traffic speeds at the intersection and the readings demonstrated that traffic speeds decreased considerably from the earlier readings that had been obtained at Crest Avenue.

He stated that he along with Mayor Skrede and City Engineer David Martini had the opportunity to view traffic at this intersection and came away very impressed with the control of traffic. He stated that it was the conclusion of the Committee members that this intersection had very good sightlines and an additional stop sign at this intersection was not warranted.

Scott Boynton asked what the City Engineer's recommendations were on the intersection.

Paul Skrede stated that the City Engineer concluded that this was a well controlled intersection that provided excellent visibility for traffic on both Northome Blvd and Deephaven Avenue. He added that he had discussed this request for additional stop signs at this intersection with several Northome residents, one of whom had been a resident for over 60 years, and had been informed that the only accidents they recalled at this intersection were due to poor driving conditions when a vehicle would inadvertently hit the stone arches on Northome Avenue.

Scott Boynton asked if the Engineer felt that there might be a need for a stop sign on Deephaven Avenue. Paul Skrede stated that the City Engineer stated that he didn't see a need for a stop sign on Deephaven Avenue either.

Paul Skrede stated that speeding is not an uncommon problem in Deephaven and the most effective remedy has been to have our Police Department concentrate on these problem areas to get the speeding under control.

Scott Boynton stated that he was reluctant to continuously contact the police about speeders and asked if there was some other way to lower speeds such as lowering the speed limit.

Chief Johnson stated that the City Council can, by Council Resolution, request that MnDOT conduct a traffic survey to determine whether a lower speed limit would be warranted but he was 99% certain that Northome Blvd would not be granted a lower speed limit and may actually require a higher speed limit.

Chief Johnson stated that he would send Mr. Boynton some information on the process of obtaining a lower speed limit through MnDOT.

Plowing of LRT Trail

Dana Young stated that the City of Greenwood has requested that the public works crew plow the entire LRT Trail rather than plow one-half of the trail for pedestrians and one-half for cross country skiers. Dana Young stated that he would like our crew to begin plowing the entire trail as well for consistency and the fact that there are far more walkers than cross country skiers using the trail.

It was noted that now that Greenwood is requesting that the entire trail be plowed and Minnetonka has always plowed the entire trail, Deephaven would be the only city of three continuing to plow one half of the trail.

The Committee recommended plowing the entire LRT Trail this year and keep track of any adverse comments from residents.

Purchase of Speed Trailer

Dana Young stated that Mayor Deb Kind of Greenwood was wondering if the City of Deephaven would be interested in participating in the cost of purchasing a speed trailer along with the City of Greenwood.

Police Chief Johnson stated that a portable speed trailer cost approximately \$7,200, with another \$650 for shipping.

Paul Skrede questioned the practicality of purchasing a portable speed trailer with Greenwood since Greenwood has the ability to use a speed trailer through their membership in the Southlake Police Department.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend that the City Council investigate the purchase of a portable speed trailer. Seconded by Jerry Hudlow. Motion carried 6-0. Paul Skrede noted that the speed trailer would also be beneficial to the City of Woodland.

Complaints regarding Coyotes

Dana Young stated that he had received a complaint from Peggy Schwarz (18850 Maple Lane) regarding a number of coyotes in her neighborhood.

The Committee recommended placing a link to an informational article written by the Police Chief on coyotes on the front page of the City's webpage.

Other

Paul Skrede stated that he noticed that the school zone lights were flashing last night at 6:13 p.m.

Chief Johnson stated that he would contact the school to have them check on the timer.

The Public Safety Committee adjourned on a motion by Dana Young, seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 6-0.

Future Repair of Mailboxes in Cottagewood

Dana Young stated that as part of the 2000 Street Overlay Project, sidewalks were installed in portions of Cottagewood that required the relocation and reconstruction of a number of mailboxes. He stated that the mailboxes were relocated and reconstructed by a contractor working on behalf of the City. He stated that he has been informed that a number of these combined mailboxes are in need of repair and he was asked who should be responsible for their repair in the future.

Jon Monson suggested that the City could undertake the repair of the mailboxes and send each of the benefitted property owners a bill.

Paul Skrede stated that he would be reluctant to have the City involved in any way with the repair of what were essentially private mailboxes. He recommended bringing this issue before the City Council for further discussion.

Other

Discussion was held regarding a garbage can that needed to be removed from Sandy Beach, recent efforts to sand the streets by the public works crew, and a request to eliminate the pile of snow from Robinson's Bay Beach.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.