

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

None

Request for Non-Mandatory Speed Limit Sign (Scott Boynton)

Scott Boynton (18950 Northome Blvd) and Adam Newton (3592 Northome Road) were present to request the installation of a speed cushion on Northome Blvd. Scott Boynton stated that he has had discussions with his neighbors, MnDOT, Hennepin County, and the cities of Wayzata and Minnetonka regarding what can be done on a road where there is excessive speeding. He stated that he has ultimately come to the conclusion that a real solution might be the installation of a speed cushion. He stated that a speed cushion would not impact emergency vehicles and it could be removed to protect snow plows during the winter months.

He stated that a speed cushion would be the most inexpensive solution to controlling the speed of traffic as he has come to the realization that a redesign of the street would be too expensive and the installation of a non-mandatory speed limit sign is not the resolution to this problem. He stated that street cushions cost \$825 each and are made of a hard rubber material that is attached to the street with nails.

Adam Newton stated that the demographics of his neighborhood are changing and more of his neighbors have younger families. He stated that many neighbors are in agreement that something has to be done to reduce the speed of vehicles.

Chief Johnson stated that the speed trailer was installed recently on Northome Blvd and asked if they had noticed if the trailer had an effect on the speed of vehicles.

Adam Newton stated that he had noticed reduced speeds due to the location of the speed trailer parked on Northome Blvd. He asked if the speed trailer is able to record the speed of traffic.

Chief Johnson stated that the speed trailer is able to record both speeds and traffic counts but, unfortunately, the trailer was not able to record these events while on Northome Blvd due to a problem with the memory chip, which has since been corrected. He stated that when a complaint regarding excessive speeding is received, his Department typically installs the speed trailer to record data and slow down traffic, he then has his officers patrol the area to issue speeding tickets.

Chief Johnson stated that earlier traffic studies have indicated the average speed of vehicles as they approach the intersection of Northome Blvd & Deephaven Avenue at 25 mph, which indicates that vehicles have to slow-down-at-the-intersection.

Scott Boynton stated that he felt that the speed results were skewed due to the presence of the speed monitor and felt that the average speed was higher than 30 mph.

Chief Johnson stated that he didn't think that there was a speeding issue near the intersection but that there is a greater incidence of speeding on Northome Blvd between Crest and Hamilton Avenue.

Dana Young stated that he was skeptical of any device that is positioned in the roadway that is intended to slow traffic and was generally concerned that the City would now have to install speed cushions throughout the city to accommodate resident requests elsewhere unless specific guidelines could be developed that could potentially justify their location in a particular area.

Scott Boynton agreed that specific criteria would have to be developed based on the speed of vehicles and the amount of traffic, which he felt existed on Northome Blvd.

Dana Young and Chief Johnson stated that they would do some more research on speed cushions for Committee review and thanked Mr. Boynton and Mr. Newton for their research into this issue.

Street & Crosswalk Striping

Paul Skrede enters at 2:03 p.m.

Dana Young stated that crosswalks are striped each year at a cost of approximately \$4,100 and streets are striped every other year at a cost of approximately \$7,300. He stated that streets aren't scheduled for striping again until 2012.

Jerry Hudlow stated that he had researched the possibility of using a 3M fabric at crosswalks instead of latex paint because it was suppose to be a more durable material but was concerned that the road surface had to be cleaned and glue applied before the tape is installed and the tape would be ruined following the seal coating of the street.

He added that he had also looked into the use of epoxy paint for street striping, which is reputed to last twice as long as regular latex paint, but found that not to be true and it was double the cost of regular latex paint.

Further discussion was held on when to stripe crosswalks and streets.

The Committee recommended painting both crosswalks and the street earlier in the year during the summer months rather than in September to see if the striping would last longer than the current applications.

Other

Chief Johnson asked about the progress of installing a privacy fence to segregate the Police and Public Works parking lot area from the City Hall / Village Hall Park area. Dana Young stated that he would obtain a quote for next month's meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the condition of the front steps leading into City Hall. The Committee recommended patching the steps this year and request cost estimates on the reconstruction of the steps next year.

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

2011 Street Improvement Project Update

Dana Young stated that the cost estimates on the mill & overlay on four blocks of Lake Avenue, all of Monaltrie Avenue and all of Ridgeview Road are not ready. He stated that a Special meeting of the Public Works Committee might be needed to evaluation the cost estimates.

Mt. Curve Drainage Project

Dana Young stated that the survey of Mt. Curve has not yet been completed and discussion regarding Mt. Curve drainage will be held next month.

Carlson Drainage Improvement

Discussion was held on the potential installation of a drain, catch basin or concrete swale along Mary Carlson's driveway on Lakeview Avenue at an estimated cost of \$3,000.

Paul Skrede recommended obtaining more clarity from the City Engineer on the proposed scope and cost estimates for the project.

Other

Seal Coating Participation - Dana Young stated that the City of Shorewood intends to seal coat that jointly owned portion of Minnetonka Blvd this summer and they have estimated Deephaven's share at approximately \$1,678.00.

Jerry Hudlow recommended obtaining more specific information on what section of Minnetonka Blvd they were considering to be in Deephaven versus that portion in Shorewood. He also noted that the City of Deephaven has always striped this portion of Minnetonka Blvd without charging Shorewood for the cost.

Paul Skrede suggested that perhaps we could offer Shorewood a trade of services on this jointly owned section of Minnetonka Blvd. He stated that we could continue to stripe this portion of Minnetonka Blvd without charge to Shorewood if Shorewood would agree to seal coat this portion of Minnetonka Blvd without charge to Deephaven.

Northern Road – Discussion was held on the catch basin at the end of Northern Road and the need to clean out the drainage ditch along Lakeview Avenue.

Robinson's Bay Beach Fence – Jerry Hudlow stated that he had been contacted by a property owner abutting Robinson's Bay Beach regarding the replacement of a fence bordering his property and City property. Paul Skrede stated that he couldn't see why the City would want to participate in replacing the fence when the fence wasn't owned by the City. Dana Young stated that he would look into the matter later this week.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jon Monson, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2011.