

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 6, 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, Jeff Kask, Police Chief Cory Johnson, City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

None

Request for Stop Signs at Cottagewood & Water Street

Bruce Wheaton (20045 Cottagewood Avenue) was present to request the installation of stop signs at the intersection of Cottagewood Avenue & Water Street. Also in attendance were Ron Staggs (20040 Cottagewood Avenue) and Michelle Wallin (20085 Cottagewood Avenue) to support Mr. Wheaton's request.

Police Chief Johnson presented Traffic Survey Data on Cottagewood Avenue. He stated that the speed trailer was posted at the 20000 block of Cottagewood Avenue for a two-week period from June 13-27, positioned at traffic heading from the Point to Cottagewood Store, and recorded a total of 12,421 vehicles traveling an average speed of 21.18 mph. He stated that the speed trailer was also hidden in Bruce Wheaton's driveway for a one week period from June 29-July 6, positioned at traffic heading from Cottagewood Store to the Point, and recorded a total of 3,016 vehicles traveling an average speed of 20.44 mph.

Bruce Wheaton stated that he has lived on Cottagewood Avenue for 40 years and has observed that traffic usually exceeds 25 mph. He noted that the posted speed limit of 25 mph is an adequate speed for this street. He stated that he is concerned about the speed of vehicles on behalf of his grandchildren. He stated that he understands the City's concern with the installation of speed bumps but thought it was a good time to consider stop signs. He noted that stop signs have been installed in other locations in Deephaven, such as at Linwood and Cottagewood, solely to control the speed of vehicles. He stated that he didn't want to wait for one of those speeders to cause a serious problem and thought that stop signs would be a reasonable approach

Ron Staggs stated that he agreed with Bruce's comments and noted that the sightlines along Cottagewood Avenue are poor.

Michelle Wallin stated that she has lived on Cottagewood Avenue for two years and is amazed at how much more traffic there is on Cottagewood than Lakeview. She stated that she doesn't feel safe to walk her kids along Cottagewood.

Dana Young asked if the average speeds recorded by the speed trailer were a surprise due to the fact that the average speed was below the posted speed limit. He stated that the difficulty faced by the City in reviewing these requests is that fact that stop signs are not recommended as a way to control the speed of traffic. He stated that the difficulty is compounded by the fact that the City needs to find a

justification for installing stop signs and that is difficult to do in this instance with average speed limits below the posted speed limit. He noted that the Traffic Survey Data shows that 98% of the traffic is traveling at or below the posted speed limit.

Michelle Wallin asked if the City would consider the installation of temporary stop signs to see how well they worked and determine how many other residents would support or complain about the stop signs.

Teresa Pendleton asked if there was any other way the City could track speeders.

Police Chief Johnson stated that the Department could post the old speed tubes.

Paul Skrede stated that the Traffic Survey Data showed the overall speeds to be much better than he thought they were going to be. He stated that when the Committee reviewed this request two years ago, he thought everyone was pretty aware of which neighbors were the ones speeding.

Police Chief Johnson stated that his Department has patrolled Cottagewood many times in the past but once the patrolling dies down, old habits return and residents start speeding again.

Bruce Wheaton asked if a temporary stop sign could be installed at this intersection.

Police Chief Johnson stated that the Uniform Traffic Control manual states that a stop sign is not the answer to controlling speeding because other problems such as vehicles driving through the stop sign soon surface.

Paul Skrede stated there is a very good probability that the people who are speeding would also fail to observe the stop sign. He stated that he would much rather post the speed trailer in this area more frequently as a reminder to residents.

Police Chief Johnson stated that he would also like to look at more traffic data on the times when there are greater incidences of speeding in order to patrol more effectively.

Jon Monson stated that a similar request for a stop sign was granted at Summerville and Northern. He stated that vehicles drive through this stop sign all the time. He stated that his main concern is that stop signs give you a false sense of security.

Speed Cushions

Administrator Young stated that Scott Boynton (18950 Northome Blvd) called and stated that he was unable to attend today's discussion on speed cushions and requested that discussion be postponed until next month.

Further discussion was held on speed cushions and whether they would be appropriate in Deephaven.

Motion by Paul Skrede to acknowledge that the Public Safety Committee has already spent an adequate amount of time on this issue and will continue to monitor any further developments with speed cushions. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 5-1.

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

Mt. Curve & 20505 Lakeview Avenue Drainage Project Bids

City Engineer David Martini presented the following bids for the proposed drainage improvement on Mt. Curve and Lakeview Avenue:

	<u>Lakeview</u>	<u>Mt. Curve</u>	<u>Total</u>
Parrot Contracting	\$5,997.00	\$15,575.00	\$21,572.00
Schneider Excavating	\$7,114.50	\$14,711.50	\$21,826.00

Also in attendance were Maureen Youngstrom (4230 Mt. Curve) and Tom Bowers (20415 Lakeview Avenue).

City Engineer David Martini stated that the bids came in quite a bit less than the Engineer's Estimate of \$31,938.50 for these two projects.

Jon Monson asked if bids had also been requested on directionally boring the lines.

David Martini stated that he did request quotes on directionally boring but was informed by a contractor that there wasn't adequate cover for boring.

Dana Young questioned the overall scope of the projects and whether there was sufficient benefit in comparison to the costs. David Martini stated that there would be quite a bit of benefit to Mt. Curve due to the continuing damage to the streets from the standing water.

Further discussion was held on the scope of the two projects. The Committee decided on the following course of action:

- Discard the drainage project at 20505 Lakeview Avenue.
- Obtain more specific cost information on only installing the pipe at Mt. Curve.
- Eliminate the blacktop portion of the project, have the Public Works crew patch Mt. Curve for the balance of the year and require the Bowers to install their own blacktop when they replace their driveway.
- Review the possible reconstruction of Mt. Curve next year.
- Obtain the necessary easements from the Bowers upon Council approval of the project.

Woodhaven Place

The Committee adjourned to review drainage problems on Woodhaven Place.

Other

Discussion was held on clearing out the drainage way along the Lakeview Avenue.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2011.