

Public Works Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 26, 2021 7:00 AM

Town of Verona Hall, 7669 County Highway PD

Via on-line Zoom software with provisions for in person participation at town office with masking and distancing

Present: Mike Duerst (chair), John Senseman, Phyllis Wiederhoeft (on line), Manfred Enburg (on line)

Absent: Russ Swiggum

Also, Present: Christopher Barnes, Public Works Director, Mark Judd, Road Patrolman,

Public Present: None

1. **Call to Order/Approve Agenda** - Chair Duerst called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM. The meeting was moved to February 26, 2021 from the regular monthly meeting date to accommodate bid opening results. Senseman moved to accept the agenda, second by Enburg. Motion carried.
2. **Review Minutes of January 24, 2021** - the minutes were reviewed with changes made by Wiederhoeft. Duerst called for a motion to approve the January minutes as revised. Motion by Enburg, second by Senseman, motion carried.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action: 2021 Road Maintenance Bid Review** - Barnes presented the 2021 road maintenance bids results from the February 25, 2021 bid opening. Four firms supplied bidders. The low bid was received by Payne and Dolan at \$261,179.26. The received bid was approximately 8% under the approved budget. Barnes discussed several areas that could benefit from additional wedging and road repairs on Sunset Drive, Grandview Road and Rolling Oaks. General discussion followed. Motion by Enburg, second by Wiederhoeft to recommend awarding the bid to Payne and Dolan to the Town Board. Motion carried.
4. **Discussion and Possible Action: Whalen Road Speed Limit Revision** - Duerst asked Barnes to review the memo contained in the agenda. Barnes stated the City of Verona has requested a change in the speed limits on Whalen Road near Old PB. The proposed revision is to lower the speed limit from 45 to 35 and 25 miles per hour near the intersection with Liberty Drive. There is a specific state statute that allows for a town to revise speed limits in an outlying area of a city. Wiederhoeft mentioned the City of Verona has already adopted the speed reduction. Barnes stated that the statute used for Whalen road is the same as was used on Country View Road. Motion by Wiederhoeft and second by Enburg to recommend the speed limit revisions to the Town Board. Motion carried. Enburg mentioned that commuters may be unhappy with the lower speed limit.
5. **Discussion: Brush, Yard Waste Issues** - Duerst opened discussion with the operation of the Town of Westport and the City of Middleton and the use of the Metropolitan Refuse

District (MRD) yard waste facility on County Highway Q. Duerst stated the Town of Westport is charged \$1,200 per year and all Westport residents can drop off yard waste at the site as well as having yard waste collected by town crews. Some townships pay MRD different amounts to provide drop off services and the townships are billed accordingly. Barnes mentioned the process that the Town of Middleton uses to collect brush and yard waste. Wiederhoeft asked about if this service was for town generated debris from town generated tree trimming or if this was intended for residents to dispose of brush and yard waste. Duerst stated that this was just for residents since the town is able to collect and burn brush and debris from the right of way. Wiederhoeft questioned about pick up issues and debris collection and if other agencies had compliance issues. Enburg stated that the ability to burn brush and yard waste was one of the reasons that the Verona town/city consolidation did not occur, and a majority of town property owners wanted the ability to burn brush on their property. Duerst mentioned that one idea would be to have the town rent a chipper and provide brush collection and chipping for specific areas and the cost placed on the tax bill. Enburg asked about having an arrangement with local landscape companies that could pick up yard waste/brush and bill the property owner accordingly. Enburg questioned why would the town want to get into the brush collection business for a few property owners? Duerst questioned if a vendor would want to bill the residents directly or if they would only want to be paid through the town; much like the trash collection service. Discussion followed. Barnes to prepare additional information. Discussion to be continued.

6. **Joint Equipment Purchase Equipment Proposal** - Duerst opened the discussion by asking Barnes to describe the joint rental of the boom mower. Barnes stated that he thought that a survey postcard to other towns would be helpful to determine if there was interest in joint purchaser of a boom mower or other equipment such as a patching buggy. Duerst requested Barnes to pursue the ideas with the Dane County Towns Association to work on a survey method.
7. **Discussion: Valley Road Bridge Engineering Update** - Barnes stated that proposals for design engineering for the Valley Road Bridge were received on February 19, 2021. Four firms submitted proposals. The selection committee will be reviewing the received proposals, possibly setting up interviews and making a recommendation to WISDOT for the contract. Barnes stated that more information would be available at the next committee meeting.
8. **General Discussion** - Barnes stated that he had an inquiry from Madison Gas and Electric asking if the town would be interested in gas service. Duerst discussed the costs of LP gas versus natural gas for the town office and public works building. Wiederhoeft stated that she expected that town supervisor, Tom Mathies, would be asking for an update on the Goose Lake/Fitchrona Road drainage study.
9. **Development Updates:** Barnes stated:
 - a. **Twin Rock Prairie Circle Development** - No new work developments. The contractor is preparing the required traffic signs. Barnes stated that the first paving course had to be completed before any houses could be built.
 - b. **Prairie Circle Development**-The project is substantially complete. One lot has been sold for a new house.

10. **Equipment Condition Update** - Judd stated that the new plow truck is scheduled for delivery in late April/May. The 2014 Peterbilt had to have the tandem axle power divider replaced. The truck was out of service for 4 days. Other vehicles were receiving typical service for the winter season
11. **Schedule March 2021 Committee Meeting and Set Agenda** -The March meeting was set for the 30th at 7:00AM.
12. **Adjourn** - Duerst called for adjournment, motion by Enburg, second by Swiggum. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:28 AM.

Approved: March 30, 2021

Prepared By: W. Christopher Barnes