

Public Works Committee Minutes

Tuesday December 19, 2023 - 7:00 AM

Town of Verona Hall, 7669 County Highway PD

Present: Mike Duerst - Chair, Manfred Enburg, Brett Lindell, John Senseman

Absent: Russ Swiggum

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

Public Present: None

Call to Order/Additions to Agenda/Approve Agenda - Chair Duerst called the meeting to order at 7:00

1. AM. Duerst asked for additions and approval of the agenda. Enburg moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Senseman, motion carried.
2. **Action: Review Minutes of November 21** - The minutes were reviewed by the committee. Enburg moved to approve the minutes as submitted, second by Senseman, motion carried.
3. **Discussion and possible Action: Equipment fund expenditure for Boom Mower/ Tractor** Duerst asked Barnes to explain the information in the agenda packet. Barnes stated that he quantified the usage and comparison between a rental and purchase of a tractor Boom Mower. Barnes estimated about 200 hours of usage a week instead of the 40 hours that the town currently rents. Barnes stated that based on the optimum usage, the pay back of a tractor/mower is about 6-7 years. Duerst explained that he believed the best time to use the mower was in the winter without snowplowing. He states that he was looking for tractors into 140 horsepower range. Discussion followed. Enburg mentioned that the difficulty of finding labor to do hand brush cutting and that a mower would be able to reduce the need of hand labor. Sensemen asked about specific tractor mower combinations and the difference between the different sizes of t tractors and what type of warranty was typical. Lindel suggested that the that committee recommend to the board a range of costs for a tactor mower purchase. Duerst asked about renting the equipment to other townships? Barnes stated he was not n favor of renting out initially. Enburg asked about obtaining quotes for doing right of way clearing and brushing from private companies. Discussion followed. Sensemen asked that Barnes price out new tractor mower combination.
4. **Information: Discontinuance of Hidden River Road (South) and Sugar Ridge** Barnes explained that he needed to restart the discontinuance of Hidden River South since the term "introduced" to the town board entails the passing of a resolution and not just an informational item. Barnes state that one property owner (Tom Poast) was at the meeting and asked a couple question about the timing o the vacation and Barnes is to respond to him. Given the new schedule, the discontinuance of hidden River will be scheduled or the February board meeting. The owners on Sugar Ridge have decided to delay the discontinuance until a future time.
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6. **Information: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Pump Station 17 and Force Relief Sewer:** Barnes states that the the work on the gravity sewer was under way. And would begin near the Military Ridge Trail.
7. **Information: Country View Road and County Highway PD widening/relocation:** Barnes State that work was shut down for the winter and the next phase of conduction would be the construction Country View Road for the north end to approximately the location the former community gardens.
8. **Development Updates:**
 - a. Riverside Heights Development:

Duerst stated that Board reviewed the memo submitted by the public works committee and chose to approve the conceptual plan without an easement of a future road extension to the north.

9. **Equipment Condition Update-** Judd stated that the new ford F-550 had been received and was ready for use. Discussion about the disposition of the 2015 Ford. Arnes stated he preferred to use Wisconsin Surplus to sell the vehicle. Duerst asked what would be a good price to put on the 2015 Ford truck? Judd stated that he thought \$45,000 was a good minimum bid. for a sale. Barnes stated that he would like to hold on to the 2015 truck for a while until the new truck is settled in. Judd stated there were no other equipment issues.
10. **Schedule next Committee Meeting and set agenda items:** The December meeting was set for January 16th, 2024 at 7:00 AM.
11. **Other Items:** Enburg asked about the item in the agenda about PASER ratings. Barnes explained that he compiled the average road rating thought out the town and uses this list as an overall gauge of road pavement ratings. The average town road had increased slightly since 2019. Sensemen asked what a good target would be. Barnes stated that he though a PASER rating of 6.5 was reasonable.

Sensemen asked about the Fitchrona Road public informational Meeting and the neighborhood response. Barnes state his opinion is that the neighbors are resigned to the widening. Duerst asked about the "historical" trees at the intersection of Lacy Road. Barnes state that he had engaged Bruce Allision to perform an analysis of trees and any known history and no evidence of an historical features were uncovered.
12. **Adjourn** - Motion by Enburg, second by Lindell to adjourn at 8:27 AM.

Approved: as amended January 23, 2024

Prepared By: W. Christopher Barnes