

**North Hudson Public Works Meeting  
Village Hall 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street N  
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

**Call to Order: roll call**

Chair Pike called the meeting to order at 5:42 pm stating the meeting started late due to technical difficulties. Answering the call were Trustees Dusty Keller via zoom and Jennifer Merrill. A quorum was present, and the meeting was duly noticed. Also in attendance were Village Engineer Kevin Oium, Public Works Director Matthew Howell, and Recording Secretary Chelsea Solfest.

**Minutes approval from April 18, 2023 Public Works Meeting**

**Motion (Merrill/Keller) to approve the April 18, 2023, Public Works meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

**Comments from the floor**

None.

**Water and Wastewater Metering**

Pike reported working on pricing for metering and stated this item will be tabled for a future meeting.

**GIS Mapping of Village Utilities**

Oium reported Melissa Luedke requested a proposal for GIS mapping for all utilities within the Village, including water main, sanitary sewer and storm sewers. There is a summary in the proposal for how many utilities are included in the proposal, which would be roughly 1,800. Oium indicated the Village previously purchased a GPS unit for approximately \$10,000, and this proposal would assume this equipment could be used, saving the Village approximately \$35 per hour. Oium stated the work would cost approximately \$60,000 - \$65,000. Due to the high cost, this could be stretched over a couple years and budget cycles. The costs could be paid by time and materials cost versus one lump sum. Oium reported everything would be mapped for the Village, including curb stops, fire hydrants and manholes, as well as depths of structures and sizes of pipes. Merrill asked if the Village has the equipment for mapping, why the Village couldn't do the mapping themselves to save money. Pike reported Public Works is down to two staff members instead of three, and even with three the Village was outsourcing the mapping, however, at the rate it was being completed, it would take about 15 years instead of a couple. Merrill further asked if Public Works were to be fully staffed, why the Village could not do the work over the next few years. Howell stated Village staff could complete the mapping with in-depth training and if fully staffed. Pike tabled this item for a future meeting.

**Pile of Dirt and Rock on Public Works Garage Property**

Pike stated this item is tabled.

**Purchase of Riding Lawn Mower**

Howell stated he has bids from three dealers; Tri-State Bobcat in Hudson, John Deere in New Richmond, and Johnson Tractor in Baldwin to bid for mowers. Bobcat had the best price for comparability to what the other dealers offer. All three dealerships offered the same warranty, horsepower and cutting capability. Bobcat was the best option due to the location being in Hudson for easy service and parts if needed. Howell reported the cost would be \$3,964 with a trade-in of a John Deere mower the Village currently owns. Pike indicated the John Deere mower that the Village owns is not utilized due to it not being a zero-turn mower. Howell indicated the John Deere mower the Village

currently owns is at 41 hours since 2017. Merrill asked why we would trade in a mower versus auctioning the mower and asked if the goal is to have three mowers. Howell stated that three mowers would be ideal with a full staff, and he will look into seeing if it would be a better option to auction the mower. Merrill stated that the new mower is not budgeted in this year's budget. Howell and Pike agreed that a mower was budgeted. Pike stated trade-ins on equipment have been done in the past. Howell stated the Bobcat salesman indicated there will be two cost increases in January. Pike advised Howell to check with the treasurer to verify the budgeted items for 2023 and to look into going to auction versus a trade-in for the new mower prior to a decision to purchase.

### **Street Sweeping Contract**

**Motion (Keller/Merrill) to approve the 2024 Street Sweeping bid at a rate of \$140 per hour.**

**Motion carried.**

### **Infected Trees Grants**

Pike stated he and Howell spoke to the DNR about infected oak trees in the Village. Howell stated there are separate grants for oak wilt and for emerald ash borer that provide a 50/50 split, and the Village costs can be offset by equipment and labor hours. Howell stated Public Works would do part of the tree take down, and then a tree service would assist with trees beyond Public Works' ability. Public Works would do stump removal and grinding. Howell and Oium agreed to investigate and apply for the grants available.

### **Flex Seal Status**

Pike indicated that the Village has a yearly budgeted amount for this item. Howell reported that the treasurer is updating to determine the amount that is left. Pike reported there was a maximum amount the Village was spending, and Howell would need to find out what that amount is, what the Village has already spent and plan to get the rest of the monies in the budget spent. Pike stated approximately 322 items get flex sealed. Howell stated he has reached out for bids for flex sealing and will provide the information to the chair.

### **Snowplowing Contract**

Howell reported that Gary Zappa will get a contract to him, and the contract will increase slightly this year with the loader and grader being higher. Pike asked if the Village spent the money from last year's contract. Howell reported the Village exceeded it. Pike reported that in past years, the Village has paid an amount over the amount actually needed for snow removal to have reserves just in case it was needed, and this year we went way past the amount. Pike asked Howell to discuss with Zappa if the Village needs a higher dollar amount or if Zappa is even available for more backup.

### **Chair Update**

Pike welcomed and congratulated Matthew Howell as the new Public Works Director.

### **Engineer's Report**

Oium indicated that the St. Croix Street LRIP reimbursement was submitted to the DOT and has been approved and forwarded back to the Village. Oium stated the Village received approximately \$18,000. Oium stated the DOT is planning to add an asphalt trail along Highway 35 from North End Road going towards the north. DOT is currently putting together construction plans and is projecting construction happening next year. Oium stated the DOT asked if there are any utility conflicts, and there would be one hydrant by Krattley Lane needing to be salvaged and reinstalled at a different location. DOT requested if the Village would like to do that prior to the project or have the DOT contractor do it on the Village's behalf as part of the project, and the Village would reimburse the DOT for that work. Oium

stated he has a picture of the route of the trail and will provide it to the committee. Pike asked Howell his preference for who would move the hydrant. Howell stated he would suggest the DOT do it so there is construction at that site only once. Pike stated this item will be on the next agenda.

**Director’s Report/Project & Reporting Updates**

Howell reported receiving a generator and all Village stations being converted and it works on lift stations and booster stations. Pike asked if the power goes out, if the generator can be turned on to get power back or if it depends on how many are out at once. Howell reported it depends on if the booster station goes out, as that one requires full time power, so if it loses power, we would need to have another generator, but if power goes out on one end of town at a couple lift stations, the Village could maintain that.

**Public Works Capital and Equipment Current and Future Budgeting**

Pike requested a list of capital items that Howell would like considered for next year’s budget. Pike described the budget process and stated the Public Works budget should be determined by mid-October and will be discussed at each meeting starting in August.

**Public Works Committee Future Goals/Agenda Items**

Howell requested the two-year replacement for the Skid Steer be added to the next agenda.

**Adjournment**

Pike adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chelsea Solfest  
Recording Secretary