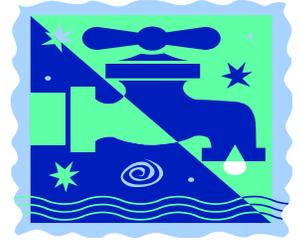




CITY OF BILLINGS

PUBLIC WORKS BOARD

JAMES MARISKA, CHAIRMAN



PUBLIC WORKS BOARD MINUTES

January 15, 2015

The meeting convened at 5:50 pm.

Members present: Ed Hammer, David Hummel, Tom Llewellyn, James Mariska, and Ryan Sullivan

Staff Absent: Dave Mumford

Staff present: Kelly Frank and Vern Heisler

Guest: Al Towler from HDR Inc

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Llewellyn motioned to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2014 meeting as written. Mr. Sullivan seconded the minutes. All members were in favor. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Heisler went over the CIP for FY16 to FY20. The final information from all City departments is due to Mr. Heisler on January 16th and will be put together. Public sessions will be held at Will James Middle School on February 10th and at Skyview High School on February 11th. City Council Work Session on February 17th will discuss the CIP and it will go for approval on March 9th.

Solid Waste is adding a CNG fueling station, which will be built in FY16 instead of FY17. Also, a household hazardous waste facility is included in the FY16 CIP. The Paver CIP will also include alleys that are already paved in addition to the road projects. Water and Wastewater CIP includes line replacements and pipe bursting. Mr. Heisler also reviewed several of the road projects in the upcoming CIP.

Additions to the WWTP in the CIP are 65 million and will be financed mostly through bonds. It will take about a year and half for design and two years to build the new additions to the plant, which will bring the capacity to 34mgd. Mr. Mariska asked how long the new improvements it will last. Approximately into the year 2030 with a population increase to 150,000.

2. INTEGRATED WATER PLAN – The City needs to plan for future water needs. Currently, the City is looking at ditches and other ideas to supply water for irrigation. Mr. Mariska asked how much will it cost to bring water to neighborhoods from ditches? There is not a clear answer yet, but the City is meeting with HDR on a monthly basis to finalize a future water plan. Mr. Heisler said staff will send these monthly reports to the Public Works Board.
3. RESIDENTIAL SNOW PLOWING- Mr. Heisler stated that the residential areas were inundated with snow. The decision was made to plow residential streets on a one time basis. There were some unhappy residents because the plows were unable to plow snow down to the pavement. Mr. Heisler explained that our plows don't have downward pressure so it makes harder to plow snow clear to the pavement and it snowed an additional five inches after we had completed most of the plowing. Mr. Heisler stated that Public Works went to City Council a couple of years ago to see if they wanted an assessment to plow residential streets and they declined. Next steps are to talk again to City Council about residential plowing and the costs. Mr. Sullivan asked that we possibly present the Council with a formula where we would plow if "x" amount of snow within a certain time frame would mandate plowing residential streets. Mr. Heisler said these types of parameters were included in the presentation to City Council several years ago for residential plowing. The board also felt a need for better communication to the public of how we will plow streets and what to expect. Mr. Hummel suggested private contractors to plow and haul residential streets like Knife River or CMG. The Board would like to make a recommendation to City Council to plow streets when there is "x" amount of snow with a policy and cost to residents. Since the beginning of winter, we have received 40 inches of snow so far, which is hard on employees and equipment.
4. STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICT FEES – There is a \$200k shortfall in SMD1 maintenance. There are five options to help cover increased costs in SMD1.
 1. Increase assessments in SMD 1
 2. Decrease services in SMD 1
 3. Merge SMD 1 and 2
 4. Expand the boundary of SMD 1.
 5. Merge districts and modify assessment method

Mr. Sullivan asked when the districts were formed, which was back in the 1900's. Mr. Heisler went over all options and methodology that will be presented to City Council on January 20th.

EXTRA BUSINESS – Mr. Sullivan talked about major construction projects this past summer and asked if we could coordinate the timing of projects better.

Summer 2015 projects include Zimmerman Trail and HWY 3 which will be widened on the bottom and top. There will be a new guardrail, trail, and one corner will be improved. The stormwater rules and regulations will be completed after an ordinance change goes to City Council. MDEQ issued a new 2-year MS4 stormwater permit which is identical to the permit that recently expired. Billings and 6 other large Montana cities will discuss with MDEQ how to go forward with sampling of stormwater and other MS4 requirements. A group of the 7 cities are meeting with MDEQ monthly for next 18 months to come up with language all cities and MDEQ can abide by. Mr. Hummel asked about the landfill lawsuit with the Billing Gazette and freedom of information. However, since there is a lawsuit, we cannot comment on any information.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm