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Capital Improvements Committee

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

1:00 P.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

A special meeting of Capital Improvement Committee of Oshtemo Township was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Due to Executive Order of the Governor to implement social distancing during the COVID-19 public health crisis, the meeting was conducted as a virtual meeting via Zoom. Persons in virtual attendance included Clare Buszka, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Marc Elliott, Dick Hertzell, Bernie Mein, Dick Skalski, Tom Wheat, Anna Horner, Tim Mallet, Jim Porter, Matt Johnson and Mark Worden.

1. Call to Order. The May 18, 2021 meeting was rescheduled to meet one hour earlier to best accommodate member availabilities and known schedule conflicts. The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 PM by Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell.
2. Meeting Summary. Members reviewed a summary of the special CIC meeting held April 20, 2021. Upon motion of Hertzell and second by Mallet, the CIC meeting summary was approved.
3. Roadway Component of Integrated CIP Development - 5/11/21 Board Presentation Recap). Director Elliott briefly reviewed the presentation given to the Board about coordinating various Capital Improvement Plans (sewer, roads, non-motorized, expansion needs) and developing Comprehensive Asset Management projects for the CIC and highlighted questions and comments from Board members.
4. Community Survey – Sanitary Sewer Extensions. Staff reviewed the presentation and results of the Oshtemo Community Survey which the W.E Upjohn Institute conducted in response to the failed bond-sale proposal. One of the highlights specifically discussed about the 40% in favor of project in the expansion areas. Mallet shared perspective related to living downstream with no available water (or sewer) service and recognizing the benefits to him for protecting drinking water quality. Mein commented that residents in the expansion areas wanted equitable cost distribution for overall community benefit as well as it related to Mallet's comment. Mein also added insight that a recent septic tank installation at a vacation home cost over \$10k. Engineer Wheat noted that the cost will remain the same for the project, there are different revenue sources and allowable amounts to leverage to change debt service repayment.
5. CIP and Sewer Financing Policy Recommendations. To facilitate discussion on repayment sources and options, Public Works staff reviewed the existing road funding policy, proposed road millage allocation, and options for target connection fee amounts. A visual representation with bar chart showed various scenarios of the four (4) revenue sources: Surcharge, Connection Fees, Road Millage, and General Fund. Assumption is that road revenue is held constant at maximum allowable based on percentage of related road items from previous bid given by Engineer Johnson. Most variable revenue sources were between connection fees and general fund contributions. Staff indicated they would be presenting similar information to the Board at upcoming meetings. The group discussed meeting with opposition representatives to present

these options and gain feedback. In addition, staff shared that they have been reaching out and working with state officials from EGLE and research groups like MSU extension for insight of similar projects and best practices.

6. Projects & PW Updates. Due to time constraints, Director Elliott gave a brief status update of current projects:
 - 2021 Local Sidewalk projects were to open bids next month.
 - Property acquisition for the Fruitbelt Trailway is underway
 - Coordination meetings on KL Avenue with MDOT scheduled as they are replacing bridge in 2024.
 - Related to KL Ave project, MDOT and Amtrak are working towards a joint agreement to allow MDOT's bridge replacement over KL & Amtrak. MDOT staff reported progress having been made. It is anticipated that the agreement will also be applicable to our future Drake Road non-motorized project (KL Ave to Stadium Dr), where Oshtemo is also seeking Amtrak's permission to cross their facility.
 - Interest rates for USDA financing saw a slight increase this quarter of 0.25% and are still below rates guaranteed at time of application.
 - Staff is working with Consumers Energy to determine costs and feasibility for corridors needing new or additional lighting and subsequent remaining funds for LED conversation for this year.
 - The 2021 Sanitary Sewer Maintenance projects identified in the SAW Grant were to begin this year with a gas line penetration repair and continued mainline cleaning and televising.
 - Staff received update from MDOT Planning representatives that the US-131 Business Interchange (Northern Penetrator) has been earmarked for funds in upcoming fiscal year budget for design work and the Township has recently purchased a needed parcel as contribution to the project.
 - More information is becoming available about uses for relief dollars from American Rescue Plan and main types of work include infrastructure and broadband related projects.
 - Road Commission related updates included applications for Safety Grants, preventative maintenance starting for the year and purchase of parcel at Atlantic Ave and Parkview Ave for intersection improvements.
7. There were no additional member comments.
8. Next Meeting. CIC will continue to anticipate monthly meetings as needed given work on USDA sewer expansion projects. Staff will determine as progress is made and input is requested for board recommendations.