



7275 W. Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Capital Improvements Committee

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

1:00 P.M.

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome/Call to Order:

Present: C. Bell, M. Elliott, S. Fitzgerald, Z. Ford, A. Horner, K. Hudok, B. Mein, Z. Pearson, J. Porter

2. Summary of June 20, 2023 Meeting: Motion to accept by Bernie Mein, seconded by Zak Ford, motion carried.

3. USDA Neighborhood Expansion Project update: Previously discussed option of using alternates of contract A: 7th St and W. Main, and cash funding West Main which was approved by the Board. Waiting for a detailed contract from the Contractor. Sewer work should begin within a month. Due to heavy commercial area of this first piece and the few residents in this area, will have open office hours instead of an open house, for 7th St. residents to have opportunity to ask Contractor, questions. Will continue sending monthly updates to Phase 1 residents for work to begin next year. Attorney Porter shared there is no news from the Court of Appeals; nothing about an expedited process yet. This places a hold on two neighborhoods for this segment of work since bonds cannot be closed on yet for Phase 1 or Phase 2. Met previously with USDA as well as all partners. They anticipate holding bonds and are very supportive of this project with decisions to move forward. Timelines will need to be adjusted once a resolution has occurred. Anticipate the Township will prevail, and will get more clarification regarding Res Judicata, to halt any further similar cases from occurring. Anna has done a detailed analysis, and if costs increase, contemplating how this will be shared with the public. Continuing to seek state funding for 2024 and strategies to consider for next year. Member Hudok noted from the state level about a unified septic system standard being developed and the potential to leverage for funding if this bill passes in the next year. Director Horner added ARPA State funds were received and put toward SRF as loans, not as grants due to the State's revised criteria for grants, prioritizing low interest loans, fees, and revenue sources. Although receiving the lowest rate with federal funds, using these sources seems the best option. Have contacted the County about bonds they may have, to look at more closely in 2024.

4. 2024 Public Works Budget: The Sewer fund will be reviewed at a later date, however, there are not many changes to this fund. (*See attached PPT slides.*)

Local Road Fund: Highlights are professional fees and capital outlay projects. Request for member feedback of priorities if all projects cannot be fully funded. For Seeco Drive, looking to build a private road that parallels West Main, which is from RCKC's new policy for traffic calming measures. RCKC stated this would be the Township's financial responsibility. Skyridge and Driftwood were included in the analysis. Local road assessment policy requires RCKC to contribute 50%. The Board passed the resolution last year, but no response was given from RCKC re: Green Meadows traffic calming. More discussion needed about continuing rise in unsafe traffic conditions coupled with law enforcement's inattention to address, i.e., approximately less than 90% traffic citations to date, with many complaints about hazardous conditions posted via social media. The capital outlay budget includes speed trailers proposed as a tool until a long-term solution can be made with RCKC. Drake Rd analysis is looking at capacity of Drake from Parkview going north. Seeco

Drive and Bluffton/Rupal connection are part of the Master Plan. The Initiate Urban Road Advocacy group is related to road design efforts and the need for more oversight of Oshtemo funds to see how this is being prioritized. Consideration to have more flexibility moving forward to understand residents needs when advocating for them. Once Second St. safety and paving SAD resolution is complete, the Board needs to approve terms and amount before residents' petition neighbors for signatures. RCKC will complete the project. Discussed a 9th St. vacant plat recently viewed. If purchased, would connect water and sewer between neighborhoods and provide a park with trails for Rupal/Westport residents to access commercial areas. Member Ford shared priorities of Seeco Dr, Bluffton/Rupal, Second St Safety, Master Plan opportunities, as well as Atlantic Ave/Parkview Ave Safety project. Will take more members' feedback as shared.

Review of General Fund: All projects are much more committed. Those with grant funding are Drake Rd– Stadium Dr to KL Ave; KL Ave Phase 1 & 2; 9th St–Stadium Dr to Quail Run Dr. There is no grant funding for Parkview Ave – Vienna to Drake Rd, though aligned to get easements and complete paving next year, and fencing pedestrian bridge over US-131. Not much budgeted for KL Ave Phase 1 & 2, due to Phase 1 work to be done this year. A big cost for Phase 2 will come in 2025-26 and have a \$1.5M grant. Have approximately 60% funding for 9th St. project to complete by 2024. Advocated for H Ave in coordination with RCKC's project who will fund relocation of existing ramps in this area. The Township will cover increase to the shared use path and taper to connect to the bike lane. The Westport Village Developer is preparing to install GO Green Non-Motorized (NM) path. Propose for 2024 budget, completing work of a 1,300 ft gap between two of the parcels. The budgeted amount is for design, construction, and easements on the south side. Propose designing the north side as well, for kids to get to the high school. The simple resolution is a mid-block crossing for design to be done next year but no construction. Feedback regarding these projects, it was conveyed the proposed projects makes complete sense, with the redevelopment, calming measures, and first-hand complaints received of speed-limit increase on H Ave from 45 to 55 mph and finding ways to fund and build shows commitment to safety and kids' walkability to schools. Another piece of the GO Green plan shows NM on both sides of H Ave to 131, using the utility corridor to get people to the underpass of Kalhaven. This is timely since funds are being appropriated for the new ramps. MDOT can start work when crossing is complete. Conversation of KPS Safe Routes to School initiative. Previous attempts have not been productive since schools must lead initiative and KPS hasn't had the capacity. The last piece from general fund is local street maintenance and repair. In 2022, set budget for asset management plan of existing facilities. Plan results are not yet available but holding amount to complete some work. The first critical need may be both sides of the W. Main trail from Drake to 9th.

Water Fund: The surcharge decreased earlier this year, so have a significant cash balance. In 2024, connection fees will no longer be paid to the Township. With the new water contract, an equity benefit fee will be paid to the City for the overall system of revenue, which will be a significant cost decrease for residents. There is an ordinance change and utility financial policy for unspent fund balance to consider what is needed for future reserves. A rate study is planned to determine surcharge to cover operational costs. The City will cover maintenance upgrades and system improvements.

Streetlights: Proposal to go to Road funds. About 75% has been paid for operations, and 25% was spent on capital, i.e., conversions or adding streetlights. Further clarification needed for resolution of future streetlight operation costs through road millage, different from placing funds into charter millage. Conversions or additional lights can occur with USDA expansions or other capital projects. The community survey revealed residents' interest in more lighting for NM paths.

Sewer Hardship Revolving Fund: Fund is setup for 3 years for a \$100K transfer each year from sewer fund. Of 300 residents with sewer, two were approved in 2021, and all 3 applicants from 2022. Policy requires first applying to USDA. All three received grants. The Committee decided to defer transfers until seeing there is a need. With phases 1 and 2 delayed, will recommend for 2024. Need to see how many people apply and how quickly they're connecting. Total fund amount is still committed.

For the Committee's awareness, Anna will begin maternity leave August 30th, and Marc Elliott will be the interim Director. Coordinating between Anna, Marc, and Zach. Zach will continue to handle daily inquiries. Marc will address development and general operations technical questions. Iris and Anna

have coordinated big capital projects, i.e., Master Plan, Atlantic Ave. timing and steps needed to complete while away. Anna returns in November. Cheri proposed Marc be looped in regular communications for continuity. Public Works will continue to work through project statuses and identify the correct contact person. Calls and information will be forwarded.

5. Director's Update:

- a. KATS Technical Committee: the City of Kalamazoo recently took a lot of flak re: bike lanes, etc., to accommodate NM users. Generally, look at three years of crash data to ascertain public opinion for a project of how techniques have worked. With just over a year and a half of data, the City installed five bike lane additions to major corridors and saw anywhere from a 20 - 46 % reduction in bike and pedestrian crashes, and overall vehicle crashes. These projects also slow traffic down. Another example is that Stadium Dr. installed a boulevard and an odd-shaped curb and have seen a 22% crash reduction.
- b. 2023 Capital Projects: (*meeting time ran over*)

6. Member Comments & Information Items: Anna shared if the committee has any further thoughts of project priorities, please share them, as the budget is still in the draft stages. No other comments.

Adjourned: approximately 2:40 p.m.