

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Spiker, Jim Berns, Ralph Geary, Leon Pfaff (exc. 5:17 p.m.), Jeff Schroeder

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Arlene Benrud, Jai Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Hank Koch, Ron Chamberlain, Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Keith Back, Mary Kaufmann, Randy Nedrelo, Charlie Handy, Dale Hexom, Ray Ebert, Tara Johnson

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Spiker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Ebert, representing the Hamilton Town Board, stated there have been complaints regarding the lack of a lake view from the Neshonoc shelter, and inadequate parking at South Neshonoc Park. Steve O'Malley said he received Ebert's email and would follow up with the Facilities director.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2011, COMMITTEE MEETING, AND MINUTES FROM THE JOINT MEETING OF PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MAY 9, 2011

MOTION by Berns/Pfaff to approve minutes of the May 9, 2011, committee meeting, and the Joint Meeting of the Public Works & Infrastructure and Executive Committees of May 9, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Benrud, Johnson excused.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Berns/Schroeder to accept and file the following Consent Agenda items. **Motion carried unanimously.** Benrud, Johnson excused.

- a. Minutes of Economic Development Fund Committee meeting of April 29, 2011
- b. Check Requisitions over \$20,000
- c. Solid Waste Director's Report

Hank Koch spoke about the ground breaking for the Gas to Energy project, which coincided with the DNR's Green Tier status award. Steve O'Malley noted that Koch gave an excellent presentation to the Downtown Rotary Club.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

Supervisors Schroeder and Berns attended the Wisconsin County Highways Association meeting, and reported the Legislature is now working through a constitutional amendment regarding segregated funds. Ron Chamberlain gave a report on the state legislation that was announced at the WCHA conference that will be considered by the Assembly next week. He provided a list of changes that will have a negative effect on La Crosse County, and which will not save taxpayers any money. He said major impacts would be bidding requirements that could prevent paving projects with CHP or CHP-D funds, lack of state funding for winter maintenance, and taking away the ability to work with other governmental units, including the City of La Crosse and other counties and municipalities, except in an emergency. It also prohibits consideration of anything but low bids; service, past history, or qualifications cannot be considered. The total adverse impact to the County could be \$500,000-\$600,000 per year. Steve O'Malley added that the bill wasn't in the Governor's original proposal, and will drastically undermine the fundamental operations of the Highway Department and the ability to serve the community.

APPROVE 2010 FINANCIAL REPORT OF HIGHWAY OPERATIONS

MOTION by Pfaff/Schroeder to approve the 2010 Financial Report of Highway Operations. **Motion carried unanimously.** Benrud, Johnson excused.

APPROVE RECONFIGURATION OF INTERSECTION OF COUNTY B & BW

Ron Chamberlain reported at the May 8, 2011, meeting that the redesign of the intersection includes a 100 ft. taper, a left turn lane, and no parking zones north and south of the intersection. Committee direction was to contact parcel owners within 300 feet north and south, and letters were sent to 25 owners. Chamberlain reported his department received telephone calls from four residents who opposed the project; he read aloud the one letter he received in opposition. He reported that the accident history included four motor vehicle accidents since 2006; one was alcohol-related, and the other three were caused by inattentive driving. Supervisor Schroeder stated that the project was at his request in follow-up to a discussion with the Chair of the Town of Campbell. The Town Board was sent a letter to ask for their input, but did not respond.

MOTION by Schroeder/Geary to approve the reconfiguration of the intersection of County B & BW at an approximate cost of \$6,000 to come from the Highway Department maintenance fund. No vote was taken on the motion.

MOTION by Berns/Pfaff to amend the motion to seek the recommendation of the Town of Campbell was withdrawn by Berns/Pfaff.

MOTION by Pfaff/Berns to amend the motion to make approval subject to the approval of the Town of Campbell was withdrawn by Pfaff/Berns.

MOTION by Berns/Pfaff to refer the matter 30 days. **Motion carried 4-1-2.** Spiker opposed; Benrud, Johnson excused.

The Chair directed Chamberlain to request a response in writing from the Town of Campbell.

UPDATE ON BLISS ROAD

Steve O'Malley reported that although the County does not have direct responsibility for Bliss Road, discussions have been going on several years regarding cooperation with the City of La Crosse. He pointed out that few City residents regularly use the road, but Towns of Shelby and Medary residents do use it regularly, and it also brings in tourist dollars for the entire area by accessing Granddad Bluff. He has proposed talking with Shelby and Medary Town Boards about collaborating with the City. He stated that it is an approximately \$400,000 project; the state will contribute about \$300,000. His proposal is for the City to contribute the engineering and 50% of the remaining costs, and the County and the two townships to commit to the other 50%. It would be a one-time only contribution that would have to be approved by 2/3 of the County Board, and would be funded from excess sales tax. Dale Hexom, City Public Works director, responded to a question about developing another route, and stated it would cost multi-millions with no guarantees that it would not fail. He stated that any repairs to Bliss Road could not be guaranteed, and like any other road, would fail at some point. The discussion will come back to the committee when the townships have had an opportunity to hear the proposal.

4TH STREET CROSSWALK LIGHTS

Mary Kaufmann reported on the capital improvement project to place amber flashing lights to create a pedestrian crosswalk on 4th Street that will connect the northeast corner of the LEC building with the parking area between the Administration and HHS buildings (4th Street and old Pine Street). It is a pedestrian activated system. The City of La Crosse Public Works Board approved the crossing. The item was for information only.

REPORT ON LANDFILL TIPPING FEES

Hank Koch gave a Power Point presentation on tipping fees. He emphasized that tipping fees are not about low price, but about economic stability. Tonnage that goes to the Xcel RDF plant accounts for half the total tonnage of solid waste, followed by municipal solid waste that cannot go to Xcel, construction and debris waste, and ash from Xcel, all of which goes to the landfill where each type is treated differently. He compared tonnage to revenue: 62% of Xcel's waste accounts for total revenue, followed by municipal solid waste, construction and debris, and Xcel ash. 90% of revenue is in those four types of waste. He showed graphs that followed the progress of fees for each type of waste, and which showed total change of only 2.5%. He also compared fees to the Consumer Price Index, which showed that fees should be raised \$1.00 per year to keep up with the CPI. He compared La Crosse County tipping fees to bordering states and to adjacent counties, which demonstrated that County fees are approximately in the middle range. He spoke about hauler rebates that are showing results with waste security. He concluded that the La Crosse County landfill is self-funded, and is managing costs and monies.

APPROVE ST. JOSEPH CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR WOOD AND SHINGLE SHREDDING

Hank Koch reported that the existing contract expired December 31, 2010. There has been no change in pricing, but St. Joseph's will have more responsibility for management of the pad and reporting. The contract extension is to the end of March, 2014. **MOTION** by Geary/Berns to approve the St. Joseph contract extension for wood and shingle shredding. **Motion carried unanimously.** Benrud, Johnson excused.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF LA CROSSE COUNTY LANDFILL MASTER LAND USE PLAN

The Resolution states that the Master Land Use Plan will be a guide for the County Landfill. The plan incorporates input from adjacent municipalities and the State DNR. It states that any proposed expenditure of funds will be brought to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and County Board for approval. Steve O'Malley, Hank Koch, and Charlie Handy explained that a land use plan is required by the City of La Crosse as a tool for consideration of permit applications. The plan is also to provide guidance and direction to the County to ensure that any future development is compatible with landfill operations. Supervisor Schroeder stated that it seemed that the plan hinged on the redesign of the entrance, and that acquisition of the Schroeder property was needed for the redesign. Handy reiterated that all specific projects and expenditures must first go through committee and the full County Board. Schroeder also questioned whether the map that was provided in agenda packets was the same as the one he viewed at the Solid Waste Department, and he was assured that it was the same. Discussion was then held regarding the term "buffer," and Koch and Handy explained a buffer can be green space, commercial use, recreational use, or other activity that is compatible with both landfill operations and the landfill's neighbors. **MOTION** by Berns/Spiker to approve the Resolution Re: Approval of La Crosse County Landfill Master Land Use Plan.

MOTION carried 3-1-3. Schroeder opposed; Benrud, Johnson, Pfaff excused.

[Note: The Resolution included a signature line for the Solid Waste Policy Board, which did approve the Master Land Use Plan at its December 8, 2010, meeting, but did not act on the Resolution presented for County Board consideration. Since the Solid Waste Policy Board is not a standing committee of the County Board, their signature on the Resolution is unnecessary. The following is an excerpt from the December 8, 2010, Policy Board minutes: "Charlie Handy provided information regarding the Final Land Use Plan for the Landfill Complex. He discussed the process used to develop the plan. This included soliciting ideas from the public, others in his office, input from the WDNR Forester, tours of the site, etc. Various aspects of the

vision presented were discussed by the group. Also discussed was that approval of this plan did not mean approval of each concept addressed in the plan. Each concept will require its own approval through appropriate channels. This plan will be reviewed annually and updated every 5-10 years. MOTION by Freedland/Holter to approve the plan and to recommend to the Public Works and Infrastructure to adopt the plan. MOTION passed unanimously with one excused - Hogden."]

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: JULY 11, 2011

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None requested.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Berns/Schroeder to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** Benrud, Johnson, Pfaff excused. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Approved, July 11, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder