

1410120

**City of Merrill
Board of Public Works
Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 4:00 P.M.
City Hall Common Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street**

Members Present (5 of 5): Mayor Bill Bialecki (Chairperson), Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Alderman Ryan Schwartzman, Alderman Rob Norton, and Alderman Peter Lokemoen

Others Present Included: Alderman Dave Sukow, Alderman John Burgener, Alderwomen Kandy Peterson (arriving at 4:35 p.m.), City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Police Chief Ken Neff, City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Ramona Pampuch, Jeremy Ratliff from Merrill Courier, Tonia Speener from Clark Dietz, Inc. – Engineers, and Dewey Pfister. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

Call to order

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to approve the vouchers, as presented. Carried.

Consider bids on City sale of former Ranger Station property

City Administrator Johnson requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Two bids were received with one at \$7,501 and second bid of \$23,500. City Administrator Johnson recommended rejecting the bids and continuing to use the three acre site for Parks & Recreation Department.

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Motion (Schwartzman/Lokemoen) to reject the bids for sale of the former Ranger Station property. Carried.

Discuss options for 2015 Street Garage roof replacement project

Finance Director Unertl requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Background information on roof condition and estimates of probable cost from Becher-Hoppe engineering was provided in the meeting packet.

Lupton reported that the existing roof is about thirty years old and that there is some leaking based upon inspection showing some wet insulation material. Unertl noted that the Street Garage is one of the City's major Wisconsin Public Service expenses for electric and natural gas. Norton strongly supported implementing energy efficiency improvements.

Motion (Norton/Schwartzman) to recommend Option 2 to remove the ballast and improve the roofing system with new membrane system. Carried. This recommendation will be included in the 2015 Capital Budget requests for review at the Thursday, October 16th Committee of Whole meeting.

Consider status of potential addition of third outdoor warning siren

Police Chief Neff highlighted the three old sirens which do not have radio activated controls (i.e. someone must come into the Police Department office and push button) and the two new sirens that can be activated from squad cars. The three old sirens were left in place due to concerns with coverage from the new rotating units which were installed in 2011.

Discussion focused upon continuing to leave the three old units in place and obtain new estimate for radio control activation capability. Norton and Lokemoen commented on potential areas without coverage and other warning options. Neff emphasized that the sirens are intended for outdoor warning. There are potential alternative technologies for alerting people who are inside buildings.

Neff will follow-up with Northway Communications for updated quote for radio activation of three old sirens for consideration in the 2015 Capital budget.

Discuss potential alternations to steam boiler in the old section of City Hall

City Hall Maintenance Supervisor Pampuch requested discussion of steam pipes in the old section of City Hall. Areas of 2nd floor, basement, and stairwells are heated with this system. Most of 1st floor has been converted to other heating systems during remodeling. There are three steam pipes that have been cut off. Pampuch indicated that hot water boiler would be more efficient. Air condition is through roof-top units for some of these areas.

Discuss potential alternations to steam boiler in the old section of City Hall (Continued)

Mayor Bialecki strongly recommended moving to electric baseboard heating at potential \$50,000 (or so). This type of heating option would allow rooms to be adjusted and involve less maintenance than potential hot water system. Pampuch advised that electric heat is typically more expensive compared to other options.

Norton requested that three options be reviewed: electric, gas furnace, or hot water.

Mayor Bialecki recommended hiring Sommerville, Inc. given their previous architectural services for City Hall remodeling projects. City Administrator Johnson will follow-up with Sommerville.

Continue consideration of load limit signs for both sides of Taylor Street and discussion/recommendation(s) on truck routes in the City

This issue was originally discussed at the August 27th, 2014 Board of Public Works meeting. At that meeting, Mayor Bialecki will have an additional discussion with the Town of Merrill Chair about posting Taylor Street for local truck deliveries only. City Administrator Johnson had map showing potential truck routes.

Consensus to potentially implement truck route signage and include funding for additional signage in the 2015 budget proposal.

Consider Alderwoman Peterson request for stop signs on Liberty Street

Alderwoman Kandy Peterson requested that this item be placed on the agenda in follow-up to the May 28th, 2014 Board discussion. Peterson submitted a petition signed by area residents. Peterson highlighted her own personal near-miss driving experience, as well as observations when circulating the petition.

Police Chief Neff provided verbal report on traffic accident history. Street Commissioner Lupton emphasized that the City has many uncontrolled intersections and that drivers just need to slow down/yield. Police Chief recommended stop signs and Street Commissioner disagreed.

Motion (Schwartzman/Norton) to approve installation of stop signs on Liberty Street at 3rd Street, 4th Street, and 5th Street. Roll call vote with Lokemoen and Lupton voting no and Norton and Schwartzman voting yes. Mayor Bialecki voted yes. Carried.

Monthly report - Street Commissioner

The report was in the meeting packet.

Mayor Bialecki and Alderperson Schwartzman advised of many positive comments regarding clearing of brush along State Highway 64 from the US Highway 51 ramp to the Pine Ridge Ave. intersection now that the City of Merrill has maintenance control.

Monthly report – Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator

The report was in the meeting packet.

Monthly report – City Hall Maintenance Supervisor

The written report was distributed at the meeting.

Monthly report from contracted engineering firms

No report(s) submitted.

Next meeting

Wednesday, October 29th, 2014 at 4:00 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion (Norton/Schwartzman) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Kathy Unertl, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk