

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
1st -3rd AVENUES WEST IMPROVEMENT
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

May 11, 2006

Mayor Sandbo called the public hearing to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present: Mark Sandbo, Edward Bolstad, Kay Costello, Tim Kennedy and Bob Spry

Members absent: None

Staff present: Kim Dunsmoor

The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss improvement to 1st Avenue West between County Road 7 and 3rd Street, 2nd Avenue West between County Road 7 & 4th Street and 3rd Avenue West between County Road 7 and 4th Street. Improvements would include water, sewer, street, curb & gutter, and sidewalk in some areas.

We have applied for grants through the Army Corp of Engineers and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, but have not received any grant for this project. Grant or not, we would like to complete this project in the 2007 construction season. If we started the project in 2006, it would not be complete until 2007. We would prefer to wait until 2007 to start earlier in the construction season and finish before fall.

Marc Tavernier is not in favor of sidewalk because it is difficult to remove snow on a hillside. *The only sidewalk intended in on the west side of 1st Avenue West because it is a main walking thoroughfare.*

Marc Tavernier questioned the assessment based upon the special assessment policy of 65% street improvements and 80% sewer and water assessments roughly adds up to \$15,000 per parcel. *Special Assessments generally follow the bond for the project usually 20 years. Grant money could reduce the assessments: however, we have not been able to get grants for 4 years. We have put off the project hoping for grant monies, but now it needs to be done. A lot of grant money is dried up. By adding more areas to the project could increase cost savings. Working with the county schedule to reconstruct County Road 7 could save some road restoration costs. We could receive a low interest loan through USDA.*

Sue Goodell said that there needs to be priorities and drinkable water should be first.

Bob Laine questioned who would pay for the water loop. *It may make more sense to increase the water loop from 1st Avenue West to 4th Avenue West if the county has the road open.*

Sue Hennessy questioned access to the properties during the project. *The contractor must keep access open to properties at the end of each day and have been accommodating in past projects.*

Virginia Palmer asked if the churches would also be assessed and if the assessment policy is the same for all projects. *Yes.*

Bob Laine questioned responsibility for roto rooting the sanitary sewer line. He has been cleaning 160 feet of tree roots every year. *Individual service line is property owner responsibility. Main line is city responsibility.*

Sue Goodell stated that there are many people with limited incomes in this project area.

Bob Laine said the estimated numbers need fine-tuning and questioned the number of sewer connections per avenue.

We will try to bid this project this fall or early winter and coordinate with the county on the reconstruction of County Road 7. We will have good plans by fall. This project needs to be done.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bolstad to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.