



PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 1, 2010

7:00 a.m.

Public Works Facility Conference Room

MEETING NOTES

1. Danny Paggao called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. Public Works Standing Committee Members in attendance were Danny, Rick Almberg, and Scott Dudley. City staff in attendance was Mayor Slowik, Paul Schmidt, Eric Johnston, Arnie Peterschmidt, Russ Pabarcus, Rich Tyhuis, and Kathy Wagoner. Also in attendance was Justin Burnett from the *Whidbey News-Times*.
2. **Review Meeting Notes – June 3, 2010** . No changes or questions.
3. **Pioneer Way – PSE Design Contract, Design Workshop, Current Activities** . Eric discussed funding for underground power discussed. \$32,800 is PSE's design cost. The City of Oak Harbor (COH) will bear this cost if no underground power put in. 40/60 split if/when underground power put in. On Council Agenda for the July 6 meeting. Agreement with PSE is mandated by the State of Washington.

Discussed the Design Workshop, particularly the trees chosen by the Committee and what the City chose to show there is continuity between the two. Approximately 30 people attended the Design Workshop held on June 23. EnviroIssues will get more public input through July. Also discussed how word gets out concerning forthcoming comments.

Eric discussed the Art Commission's concern about the sidewalk design being too busy. (COH) will put in most of the concrete planters. If the merchants do pots then they have to take care of them. If COH does the pots, then we take care of them.

Russ stated the authority to proceed with the design work is going before the Council on July 6. Once authority is received, PSE has 30 days to produce preliminary engineering; those drawings will be reviewed; comments made by Engineering Department; then goes back to PSE and they have 60 days to complete. That's not complete engineering, that's complete PSE engineering. Then you start adding on Verizon, Comcast, etc., those types of things, which will be done by our consultant. Our consultant has hired an electrical engineering contracting firm to go out and figure out how best to make the final connections to the businesses. The cost of hooking up to underground power is the property owner's to bear. Electrical consultant and EnviroIssues will help by contacting the business owners/property owners to talk about the cost. They will make individual visits to the property owners/buildings that are affected by the conversion saying we'd like to come, we'd like to look through your building and help get the undergrounding figured out - keeping direct contact.

Eric said as difficult as it is for us to actually pay the connections but we can do as much as we can to understand what the issues are and help them understand what those

issues are so they can, theory, minimize their cost and the effects to their property when making those underground connections. There is also an advantage to us in helping to control the schedule and the risks associated with that schedule. If we know at the beginning there is a particular business that going to be very difficult to connect to then we can build that into the process and be aware of that before we get into it. We can make sure people have enough information to make an informed decision concerning the underground power.

4. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan – Tentatively scheduled for Council Workshop on July 22, 2010** . The Council workshop is now scheduled for July 15, so Mr. Madsen can attend. Scott asked if there will be options shown (i.e., number of sites; number of ways to get to the end result). Looking at the scope, there are many sites and options. The lagoon site is no longer viable. What was discussed in 2004, 2005, and 2006 is no longer valid. Environmental issues are becoming more restrictive. No matter what the City of Oak Harbor does, the Lagoon Plant would be valid. Spending more time up front will help alleviate problems in the future. Paul said there will be frustrations because the State has the final say in everything but the funding.
5. **North Reservoir Final Design Engineering – Contract with G&O for construction documents for reservoir, pump station modifications and transmission main construction** . Requesting approval of a design services agreement for developing construction plans for a new water storage reservoir and associated piping and facilities. The Agenda Bill will be presented at first Council meeting in August.
6. **Introduction of Utility Policies for Storm Water** . An Agenda Bill will be presented to amend the ordinance in the Oak Harbor Municipal Code entitled "Drainage Utility Charges". It establishes the criteria to be used in determining storm water utility rates. The ordinance would also provide that the storm water rates be used exclusively for storm water regulation. Over the next five years discounts for non-profits will be phased out. Non-profit rates will be the same as commercial rates. This will be introduced only for the July Council Meeting with the final being presented in August.
7. **Disposition of RTPO Grant – Recommendation to return grant to RTPO** . In 2006, the City applied for and received a \$1,000,000 grant towards improvements of SR 20 between Beeksma Drive and Swantown. The grant application and award are specific as to the location and project. These grant funds cannot be used for other projects within the City without a new call for projects, a new application by the City, and approval by the RTPO board. Staff recommends giving the returning the funds for other projects which may or may not include the City of Oak Harbor.

Mayor Slowik said WADOT says the City should pay for a major part of the SR 20 improvements, but the City doesn't have the funds to do such a thing. Senator Haugen is looking at funding for SR 20 improvements. She's talking about four times the amount, \$13 million from Swantown to Pioneer Way. Funding is now controlled by the State Legislature . WADOT no longer has a say. \$3 million is the cost for moving the waterlines for the current improvements on SR 20. This amount was charged to the City and the Navy, with each paying half. The City needs to hear from Senator Haugen direct concerning her plans.

Eric said it is better to give the RTPO funds back rather than have them take it back since it is their money. Rick asked if the funds could be used to purchase property. Eric said yes, but is it worth having empty buildings and taking away affordable housing. Eric said the funds are doing nothing now.

8. **Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan – Annual approval of the 6-year TIP .**
Arnie said an Agenda Bill will be presented at the August Council Meeting presenting the draft 2011-2016 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Council consideration and a resolution of adoption. Projects listed on the previous TIP which will be removed from the list due to completion this summer are the North Oak Harbor Street improvements; the NE 7th Avenue Intersection Improvement; and, the Arterial Sidewalk Phase II projects. The project list on the 2011-2016 TIP was developed by Staff from the Comp Plan. Eric was asked if SR 20 is on the 2011-2016 TIP and he said yes. The TIP gets updated every year. Danny asked about Heller Road sidewalks and if still funds available. Eric will check on.
9. **RTPO Call for Projects – RTPO anticipating a call for STP(E) and STP(R) projects .**
The Island Sub-Region RTPO has issued a call for project applications for Surface Transportation, STP(E), eligible projects and will be issuing a call for STP(R) eligible projects within the next month.

STP(E), Enhancement Programs, provides Federal funding for surface transportation related to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, historic preservation, scenic beautification, acquisition of scenic easements and historic sites, and other similar projects. RTPO is anticipating approximately \$450,000 will be available for projects in Island County. Staff is recommending the City not apply directly for this program.

STP(R), Regional Programs, provides Federal funding for surface transportation projects related to regional transportation priorities such as major roadway improvements that have regional benefit in moving vehicles, freight and alternate modes of transportation. The North Oak Harbor Street and SE Barrington Drive projects both had STP(R) funding. With the reallocation of the SR 20 grant it is anticipated the Island County STP(R) funds available will be approximately \$1.9 million. Staff anticipates having a recommendation for application at the August Council Meeting. Improvements to SE 4th and NE 7th Avenues are projects identified as needed improvement. Both projects are on the short term priority list and would compete well in the region.

Scott asked is the funding could be used for the underground power on Pioneer Way. Eric said yes, but Federal funding adds more cost to the project; managing the funds is very expensive. Does the City want to federalize the Pioneer Way project . it's not worth it.

10. **Department of Ecology (DOE) Storm Water Grants .** The 2010 State Legislature appropriated over \$54 million to DOE for local governments to address stormwater management and control.

DOE is offering two financial assistance programs with these funds. The first program, DOE will distribute approximately \$23.5 million in non-competitive building grants to designated local governments, one of which is Oak Harbor. The total available is \$132,334. These funds can be used to implement permit requirements, purchase equipment and services in direct support of implementing the permit, planning, design

and implementation of stormwater retrofit or LID projects. Staff recommends applying these funds to correct existing stormwater and sewer utility conflicts on Pioneer Way.

The second program is a competitive grant. This grant is intended for retrofit of existing stormwater projects in areas where stormwater is a significant source of contamination and implementation of low-impact development stormwater projects. Staff recommends applying in the fiscal year 2010 program as there is approximately five times more funding available in the 2012 program than there was previously. It isn't enough to pay for the whole thing, but a good portion of it. The City qualifies for the grant because there is a threat to public safety.

These are pass through funds and don't have to be paid back. This is not a loan, but a grant.

11. **Senior Center HVAC System – Investigation of Replacement HVAC units** . Rich discussed the Senior Center's current heating, ventilating and air conditioning, which is now 24 years old. The HVAC units originally had a life span of 18 years and they are no longer made so difficult to get parts. The parts are very expensive and it is no longer if they break down but when. The five roof mounted units need to be replaced with new comparable units. The installation of a reliable heating and cooling system will reduce the current increasing maintenance costs. Installation of a heating and cooling system that meets or exceeds energy standards for future energy savings.

Due to time constraints, items 12, 13, 14, and 15 were not discussed.

12. **Scenic Heights Trailhead – Authorization to Advertise for Bids** . Will be presented at the July Council Meeting.
13. **Fuel Island Upgrade – Authorization to Advertise for Bids** - Will be presented at the July Council Meeting.
14. **West Meadow Easement Extinguishment** - Will be presented at the August Council Meeting.
15. **Well 9 Status Report** - Will be presented at the July Council Meeting.
16. **Public Works Director's Comments** - None
17. **Next Meeting** . August 2010, 7:00 a.m.
18. **Meeting Adjourned** . 9:00 a.m.