

SPECIAL EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2003
8:00 A.M. - CITY HALL

Having notified all Councilmembers and the Reporter for the City's Official Newspaper, the Lake Country Echo, the Council for the City of Crosslake met in a special emergency session on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at 8:00 A.M. at City Hall. The following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Darrell Swanson, Chuck Miller, Dean Eggena, Dick Phillips and Irene Schultz. Also present was City Administrator Tom Swenson, Community Development Director Ken Anderson, Police Chief Bob Hartman, City Engineer Dave Reese, and Clerk/Treasurer Darlene Roach. Also in attendance was Don Anderson of WSN, Michael O'Donnell of the Crow Wing County Highway Engineer's Office and several local business owners.

Mayor Swanson called the emergency session to order at 8:00 A.M. and stated that the order of business was to discuss the Sewer Project as it relates to work on County Road 66. The meeting was turned over to City Engineer Dave Reese.

City Engineer Dave Reese stated that normally this would be the weekly contractor meeting and that the venue has changed due to the possible detour that the contractor is proposing. Representatives from Hammerlund Construction were not yet present at the meeting to explain the reason behind the closing, but Reese stated that he would summarize how we've gotten to the point of needing to close the road. Reese stated that this project includes three parties with different missions. The engineering firm is responsible to review the work that is done by the contractor and to provide the necessary communication between the City and the Contractor. The Contractor is responsible for traffic control and detour plans as it pertains to the project in addition to safety. The Contractor is the only party that can determine the safety parameters for his crew and for the public. The City Engineer answers to the contractor on all safety issues. This was identified and agreed to by all parties at the pre-construction meeting that was held in April. There was a restriction placed on the Contractor in regards to County Road 66 between Memorial Day and Labor Day which was adhered to by the Contractor. Since Labor Day, the Contractor has made every effort to keep the traffic flowing along County Road 66 and County Road 3 by maintaining a single lane. Most recently, the contractor has encountered certain situations where right-of-way and easements are not ample enough to allow the contractor to do the job without jeopardizing safety. As a result of this, the contractor feels safety has become an issue by adhering to the single lane of traffic and has forwarded a detour plan to Crow Wing County on August 28th for their review. This plan was reviewed at the Contractor meeting held on September 3rd and the recommendation was made to avoid the detour by finding alternate routes through Zorbaz and Margaret Lane. Beyond Zorbaz and the Dairy Queen, the space is very limited where allowing for a single lane and still being able to proceed with construction has become a serious concern for the contractor.

Mayor Swanson asked what happened that changed the plan and created a safety issue. City Engineer Reese stated that at the sewer main crossings, the contractor needs to excavate across the entire right-of-way due to the depth, the sandy soil conditions and the sewer main approaching closer to the right-of-way. While the detour plan was an

additional attempt to maintain single lane traffic on County Road 66, it was not allowing work to continue. In an effort to get the project completed and allow time to install the base coarse on County Road 66 this Fall, the Contractor is requesting that the road be closed in some areas in order to get the job completed faster.

The answer that the contractor needs to provide is how advance notification is going to be accomplished in order to maintain emergency services, school bus pickup and delivery, garbage pickup, postal deliveries and etc. Also, the City will want to know how the business owners and property owners will have access. The County's concerns need to be addressed for timeframe and the schedule for completion.

Todd Hammerlund of Hammerlund Construction joined the meeting along with Darrell Schneider, field observer for WSN. Todd Hammerlund addressed the Council and stated that in order for his firm to continue, the road needs to be shut down. He stated that the width of the ditch and the depth of the cut in the area of Little Yukon is preventing them from continuing their work. He stated that if the road is closed down, the crew can get to the bridge in 2 days. The next step would be to go from the Bait Box to Arnie's Meats. To go from the lift station back to the bridge will take approximately 4 days. To allow completion on both ends, it could take two weeks, however, portions of the road would be opened up and a detour put in place at the point of Arnie's Meats through Old Log Landing. Councilmember Eggena asked how soon the road could be closed and City Engineer Reese stated that a message board should be erected two to three days in advance of the closure. If the signs go up on Friday, the closure could take place on Monday. The type of message board to use is at the discretion of the contractor and Todd Hammerlund stated that they will use letter signs that Geyer Signs will install.

With the closure, it is expected that the blacktop we be in place by the middle of October.

Michael O'Donnell stated that the County would like to review the detour plan.

MOTION 09S3-01-03 WAS MADE BY DEAN EGGENA AND SECONDED BY IRENE SCHULTZ TO AUTHORIZE THE ENGINEER AND THE CONTRACTOR TO SET UP A DETOUR FOR COUNTY ROAD 66 AND TO EXPEDITE THE CLOSURE FOR THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF TIME BUT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET THE BLACKTOP BACK ON THE ROAD THIS FALL. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Councilmember Eggena stated that the next thing he'd like to look at is how we got to this point and who determined we weren't going to have a detour. Eggena stated that if it was the Sewer Committee who made the decision to not close the road, they did not have the authority do this. The decision rests with the Council. In regards to the area around Zorbaz, permission was sought for a detour because they don't open until four o'clock, and these are easement areas and right of ways. Councilmember Miller stated that the Council would have to meet every Wednesday if all field decisions rested at the Council level and had Geyer Signs followed through with what they were instructed to do by the contractor, the entire Council would have been made aware of the problem two months ago.

Brad Nelson asked if the signs could be erected without a three-day notice and City Engineer Reese stated that the County has identified four concerns that need to be addressed prior to the road being closed.

MOTION 09S3-02-03 WAS MADE BY CHUCK MILLER AND SECONDED BY IRENE SCHULTZ TO ADJOURN THIS SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING AT 8:50 A.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Recorded and transcribed by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darlene J. Roach".

Darlene J. Roach
Clerk/Treasurer

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