

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
CITY OF CROSSLAKE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997  
7:00 P.M. - CROSSLAKE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Crosslake City Council held a public information meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 1997 at 7:00 P.M. at the Crosslake Community Center. Present at the meeting was Deputy Mayor Charles Miller, Councilmembers Donna Keiffer and Ray Smyth, City Administrator Thomas Swenson, City Attorney Paul Sandelin, City Engineers Mark Hallan and Dave Reese and Deputy Clerk Darlene Roach. Also present was Bob Ehlers of Ehlers & Associates and Brainerd Dispatch Reporter Christine DuFour. Absent was Mayor Robert Scott and Councilmember Dick Upton. There were approximately 80 individuals in the audience.

Deputy Mayor Chuck Miller opened the meeting at 7:02 P.M. by introducing all of the speakers who were presenting information during the meeting. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to give information to the public regarding the bond referendum scheduled for October 7, 1997. This referendum, if approved, would allow the City to proceed with the black-topping of all City maintained granular surfaced roads in the City within a three year period. The current plan is to blacktop over a period of twenty years. Mr. Miller stated that the purpose of the referendum is to decide one option for financing the road project. The meeting was then turned over to City Administrator Tom Swenson and to the City Engineers.

City Engineer Mark Hallan gave an overview of the City's plans for bituminous surfacing should the referendum be approved by the voters. He stated that all current granular roads would be upgraded to paved surfacing, that all new roads must be built to City standards prior to acceptance by the City, and that the cost of road maintenance on currently black-topped roads would be paid through the general levy. He stated that several road studies have been completed since 1980 with the most recent one being done in 1996 by Widseth Smith Nolting. He commented that the majority of the twenty one miles of existing bituminous roads were constructed over twenty years ago. An alphabetical listing of roads under consideration for bituminous surfacing was provided. The project costs have been scaled down from 4.8 million dollars to 3.3 million dollars for paving of 22.3 miles of roads and 3.3 miles of bikeways. He stated that each road would be looked at individually for necessary drainage, tree removal and amount of root growth and safety requirements. He stated the project does not include the cost of right-of-way acquisition, capitalized interest for bonds, storm sewers or curb and gutter, street lights, sidewalks or sewer and water lines. The expected future cost savings for the City, if the sand and gravel roads were blacktopped, would be approximately \$70,000 per year based on the estimated cost of a properly maintained gravel road.

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Mr. Bob Ehlers of Ehlers and Associates explained the financing options available to the City. The Cities' unused debt limit is currently 5.5 million dollars. Mr. Ehlers stated that any sewer or water projects under consideration in the future would not go against statutory debt limits. Mr. Ehlers showed what the tax effect would be on homeowners based on the market value of their homes for the 20 year length of the bond issue.

After a ten minute recess, the meeting was opened up to the audience for questions. Several individuals expressed their opinions for and against the project and asked numerous questions of the City Engineers and bond counsel. After approximately forty-five minutes, Deputy Mayor Chuck Miller thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Taped and transcribed by:



Darlene J. Roach  
Deputy Clerk