

PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 14, 1998
7:00 P.M. - CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 for the purpose of holding a public hearing on a proposed road policy ordinance with regards to future financing, implementation and black topping. The following Councilmembers were present: Mayor Bob Scott, Donna Keiffer, Chuck Miller, Ray Smyth and Richard Upton. Also present was City Administrator Thomas Swenson, Darrell Schneider and Dave Reese from Widseth, Smith & Nolting, Reporter Tom Waller, Public Works Chairperson Dean Swanson, Armond Gease videotaping the meeting, and Darlene Roach taking the minutes. There were approximately 27 individuals in the audience.

Mayor Bob Scott called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Scott stated that prior to 1996, the black-topping of granular roads in the City required a petition signed by a majority of adjoining property owners. At the end of 1996, the road policy was changed by the Council, whereby, all granular roads would be black-topped out of the general fund. The current Council proposed the black-topping of all granular surfaced roads over a period of three years by means of financing through general obligation bonds. The referendum that was held in October of 1997 did not pass, so the Council agreed to review the issue. Chuck Miller, Public Works Liaison, stated that although the referendum has been defeated, the policy is still in place for upgrading the roads. The Public Works Commission still maintains that all granular surfaced roads should be upgraded to blacktop.

Mayor Scott turned the meeting over to Dave Reese of Widseth, Smith & Nolting who presented two Ordinance proposals which were developed based on input and discussion at several Public Works Commission Meetings.

Ordinance 93 deals with un-built, and un-maintained platted roads. It defines unopened streets, opened streets, private streets, un-maintained streets and vacated streets. In addition, it states 1) that all unopened streets are not open for public use, 2) that the issuance of a zoning permit does not guarantee City street access, 3) that it is within the City's discretion to determine when to open, close, construct or improve a platted or non-platted street under the jurisdiction of the City, 4) it explains when streets may be opened for public use in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10 of the City Code, 5) that private streets shall not be constructed or maintained by the City; and 6) what alternatives the City has in regards to vacating and initiating an assessment proceeding for the improvement of said street or to act upon a petition for an improvement policy.

Ordinance 94 deals with a road assessment policy for the City. It addresses how blacktop projects can be initiated by property owners with a 3/5ths majority vote of the City Council, how the City Council can initiate a project with a 4/5ths majority vote, what is required prior to initiating a project, what studies and public hearings are required and when, and how the project will be assessed to benefiting property owners.

After reviewing the contents of both ordinances, Dave Reese stated that the purpose of the hearing was to get input from the citizens. The Council's options would then be to adopt the Ordinances, postpone any action to a later date or continue with the current policy.

The meeting was then opened up to the public for questions and comments.

Francis Fraser suggested taking the proposed total of principal and interest recommended on the bond issue and divide by the 20 years proposed to pay off the bonds and raise the annual levy which would allow for a pay-as-you go method of black-topping. After some discussion, the Council recommended that the Public Works Commission review this option of financing the blacktop project before they make any decisions on the Ordinances.

Other comments from the audience suggested a lack of understanding by the public regarding the referendum, which the Council refuted, questions as to who would pay for the black-topping projects, what effect black-topping would have on future sewer and water projects, and what savings would be realized by the black-topping of granular roads. After ample time was given to discussion, Mayor Scott thanked Dave Reese for his presentation and thanked everyone in the audience for their attendance and participation.

MOTION S01-01-98 WAS MADE BY CHUCK MILLER AND SECONDED BY RAY SMYTH TO ADJOURN THIS PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:00 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recorded and transcribed by:



Darlene J. Roach
Deputy Clerk