

PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF CROSSLAKE  
BIRCH NARROWS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
PRELIMINARY IMPROVEMENT HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021  
7:00 P.M. - CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in a Special Session on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at City Hall. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, John Andrews, Aaron Herzog, and Marcia Seibert-Volz. Dave Schrupp was present via Zoom. Also present were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, City Clerk Char Nelson, Public Works Director Ted Strand, Park Director TJ Graumann, and City Engineer Dave Reese. There were five people in the audience and on Zoom.

Mayor Nevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was then turned over to Dave Reese, who presented the scope of the project, project cost summary, timing of project, and proposed assessments. The project will include full-depth pavement reclamation of the current road pavement and base, and topsoil and seeding of shoulders. Records show that the road was paved in the mid-1980's. Mr. Reese explained that the current road is in poor condition with wide, deep cracks. The road surface has oxidized and is losing aggregate and has started to require more regular maintenance. It is difficult for the snow plow to not damage the road. The estimated cost of the project is \$286,000. There are 37 lots on the road that would be assessed. The recommended assessment, based on a licensed appraiser's opinion, is \$4,000 per lot. For property owners that use the road to access their parcels that are not adjacent to the blacktopped road, Mr. Reese recommended charging them half an assessment is the amount of \$2,000. Mr. Reese explained the payment options.

Marcia Seibert-Volz asked if the property owners who use the road for access were notified of the hearing and where the parcels are located. Mr. Reese replied that there are ten parcels at the end of the road where the surface turns to gravel and they were notified of the hearing.

Craig Graffunder of 15520 Birch Narrows Road asked if larger parcels would receive more than one assessment and how many trees would be removed. Dave Reese replied that all lots will receive one assessment irregardless of the size and that there is no plan to remove trees. Mr. Graffunder stated that he lives in Minnetonka and the road in front of his house there is also being improved and that Minnetonka is not charging an assessment. Mr. Reese stated that cities with populations greater than 5,000 receive State Aid which helps fund infrastructure projects. The City of Crosslake receives no State Aid.

Tom Fuith of 15652 Birch Narrows Road asked if a traffic study was done because with the little amount of traffic, he believes that the City could wait a few years to reconstruct the road. Dave Reese replied that although there is less traffic in the winter, garbage trucks and school busses still use the road on a regular basis and can cause damage to the edges of the road.

Bob Vanhicke of 16568 Birch Narrows Road stated that he owns property on both sides of the sharp curve near CSAH 3 and asked where the water will drain. Mr. Vanhicke installed a French

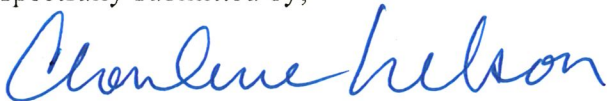
drain on one side of the curve and was concerned that he would need to add another on the other side. Mr. Reese stated that the plan is to drain the water to the inside of the curve. Ted Strand stated that he and Mr. Vanhicke have spoken before about adding a French drain and that the City will look at that when designing the road.

Mike Myers of 15304 Birch Narrows Road asked if there are any other roads in the City that are older than Birch Narrows and asked what other property owners have paid for assessments in the last three years. Dave Reese replied that there are few roads that are older. In the past assessments were based on the final construction costs and some had assessments that were very high. This year the City set flat assessment rates of \$4,000 for all the roads that will be reconstructed and \$1,000 for overlay projects. One year after the roads are reconstructed the City will chip seal which adds to the life of the road. It may be 30-40 years before the next assessment will be necessary.

Marcia Seibert-Volz asked how many calls were received regarding this project. Mr. Reese stated that he received four calls or emails and one of those was opposed to the project.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,



Charlene Nelson  
City Clerk

# SIGN-IN SHEET

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