

PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION TO CSAH 16
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT HEARING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
6:00 P.M. - CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at City Hall. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, John Andrews, Dave Schrupp, Aaron Herzog and Marcia Seibert-Volz. Also present were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, City Clerk Char Nelson, Public Works Director Ted Strand, Zoning Administrator Jon Kolstad, and City Engineer Phil Martin. There were twenty people in the audience and on Zoom.

Mayor Nevin called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was then turned over to Phil Martin, who presented the scope of the project, project cost summary, timing of project, and proposed assessments. The purpose of extending sanitary sewer is to keep the lake waters clean. The project extends sanitary sewer approximately 4000 feet, from Fire Hall along CSAH 66 to the intersection of CSAH 16. Mr. Martin stated that the project will include replacing storm sewer pipe that dates back to 1978. Crow Wing County will pay for part of that cost as well as the reconstruction of the road. The City received a grant of \$315,000 expiring the end of 2022 to reconfigure existing direct discharge pipes to route through new stormwater treatment cells. The total project cost is approximately \$2,356,080. The City hired an appraiser to supply the City with a value of benefit to the affected properties along the project route so that the Council could determine the appropriate assessment. The proposed assessments are not based on the cost of the project, rather on benefit to the property. The City is required to assess at least 20% of the cost of the project to comply with bonding rules. If City moves forward with project, the engineer will meet with each property owner to discuss easements, driveways and placement of sewer stubs.

Terry Johnson of 14086 Tall Timbers Trail stated that he belongs to the Old Log Landing Association which has a structure across the street within the project area and asked if the crosswalk will be improved as part of the project. Phil Martin stated that the crosswalk will be brought up to ADA standards and may be moved to the south to line up with the road. This property is zoned residential.

John Gleason of 37471 County Road 66 asked if the assessment could change if the project cost is higher than anticipated, about monthly user fees, and about vacating septic system. Phil Martin stated that once the Council sets the assessment amount, it would be hard for them to increase it later. The monthly user fee of \$52 is not likely to go down and may go up. Ted Strand stated that the septic tank will need to be drained, crushed and then filled.

Jamie Boller of 37221 County Road 66 stated that the whole project is for the benefit of Moonlite Square and that the residents along the way are stuck having to hook up even if it isn't necessary. Mr. Boller asked the Council to reconsider the assessment amount.

Shawn Peterson of 66 Marine stated that his business has one restroom and not many employees at that location. Mr. Peterson wondered if he would be charged for the water used to wash boats. Ted Strand stated that two meters could be used to determine what went into the sewer system. Char Nelson stated that C&C Boat Works rarely uses more than 8,000 gallons of water per month.

David Gahn of 37148 County Road 66 noted that most of the construction seems to be taking place on the west side of the highway and asked what he could expect on the east side. Phil Martin replied that they want to keep the curb and gutter intact on the east side with minimal disturbance. The engineer plans to meet with the neighbors and keep them up to date with the plans as construction continues.

Dave Schrupp asked what the overall duration would be. Phil Martin stated that the timing of the project will be up to the contractor but once the project starts, the pipe should be in the ground in 6-8 weeks, with the majority being completed in 3 months. If the City asked for a more stringent timeline, the bids would most likely come in higher.

Lee Fischer of 37133 County Road 66 asked if he should take pictures of his yard so that it is put back together the way it was. Phil Martin stated that it is a good idea and that the engineers will make a video as well. Mr. Fischer had questions about the sprinkler system, leaving the septic in the ground, and the increased cost of project. Phil Martin stated that sprinkler systems are not allowed in the right-of-way and that property owners will be responsible to move personal items from the area. Ted Strand stated that the State requires abandoned septic tanks to be crushed or removed. Jon Kolstad agreed but stated that he would double check. Phil Martin stated that the cost of materials has increased significantly since the first meeting regarding this project in 2019. Mr. Fischer stated that the County should have to pay for all the storm pipes and that the crosswalk at Old Log Landing needs to be improved.

Terry Johnson asked the Council to consider improvements to the crosswalk at Old Log Landing. Phil Martin explained that crosswalks with flashing lights would not be allowed in areas where the speed limit is 45 mph. The speed limit in that area is currently 45 and the State will be conducting a speed study which could lower or increase the speed limit. The County has jurisdiction of County Road 66 and they would determine how to improve the crosswalk.

Lee Fischer asked about dust control. Phil Martin stated that the contractor will be required to water the road and Ted Strand stated that his staff will water roads on weekends if necessary.

Doug Oster of 13600 County Road 16 asked if the bike path would be closed for the duration of the project. Phil Martin stated that they may have a detour for bikes but will try to keep a section for pedestrians and bikes open.

Dave Nevin reported that the City tried to get permission to charge a 0.50% sales tax to be used towards the cost of sewer extensions. Mr. Nevin stated that it wouldn't be fair to the residents of this area to have to pay assessments if others in the future don't get assessed because it is paid for with sales tax revenue. Mr. Nevin suggested only charging an assessment and not a connection fee and stated that the project is for the betterment of the City, not just for Moonlite.

Mr. Nevin stated that the cost to the property owners along the project should be less and that the City should pay for more. Mike Lyonais explained the process of requesting permission from the State to charge sales tax. Dave Nevin stated that the contractor should start construction the day after St. Patrick's Day so that it is done before summer. Phil Martin stated that is a good idea only if the City can control the weather.

Aaron Herzog asked why the State did not approve the City's request to charge sales tax this year. Mr. Lyonais explained that the House wanted to see infrastructure above the ground, rather than pipes in the ground. The Senate was in favor of the tax.

Marcia Seibert-Volz asked when the connection charge is due. Char Nelson stated that the City allowed residents to pay the connection charge over 10 years for the Phase 1 Sewer Project. Since then people were required to pay the full amount when a building permit is pulled. One business has been allowed to have a payment plan.

The Council agreed that they are in favor of moving forward and would consider approval of a resolution at the October 11 meeting. A discussion ensued regarding bonding and assessments. Mr. Lyonias noted that the whole City has been paying a portion of the bonds from Phase 1 Sewer Project and will pay a portion of the bond for the proposed project.

MOTION 09SP4-01-21 WAS MADE BY AARON HERZOG AND SECONDED BY JOHN ANDREWS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted by,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk



Real People. Real Solutions.

CSAH 66 Improvement Hearing
Crosslake, MN
Public Information Meeting

Date: September 22, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Crosslake City Hall

[illegible]



Date: September 22, 2021
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Crosslake City Hall

[illegible]