

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021
6:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake held a Public Information Meeting on December 13, 2021. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, Dave Schrupp, Marcia Seibert-Volz, Aaron Herzog and John Andrews. Also present were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, City Clerk Char Nelson, Public Works Director Ted Strand, Park and Recreation Director TJ Graumann, and Police Chief Erik Lee. Northland Press Reporter Paul Boblett and Echo Publishing Reporter Nancy Vogt attended via Zoom. There were three people in the audience.

Mayor Nevin called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and turned the meeting over to Mike Lyonais. Mr. Lyonais reported that the purpose of the meeting was to take public comment and answer questions regarding the 2022 Budget and proposed tax levy.

Tom Swenson of 35533 Sand Pointe Drive addressed the Council and provided the following comments on the proposed 2022 budget: There was no need for the City to purchase a second skid steer and snow blower. The engineering costs in the public works budget could be reduced from \$25,000 to \$5,000. \$6,000 has been budgeted twice for police fines/fees expenditures. Mr. Swenson did not suggest that the levy be reduced but that these amounts be reallocated to other funds.

Marcia Seibert-Volz noted that the Council has received many requests from residents to plow the walking trails and suggested reallocating \$6,000 from fines/fees and \$25,000 from engineering fees to the cost of clearing trails. Ms. Seibert-Volz stated that staff should keep track of the hours spent clearing trails. TJ Graumann stated that there is more cost than just labor and asked if staff should track the cost of fuel, scraper blades and salt. Ms. Seibert-Volz and Dave Nevin stated that only labor needed to be tracked.

Dave Nevin stated that he was in favor of the proposed levy and that the Council did not have to move funds tonight. Mr. Nevin stated that he is in favor of the City purchasing land for future use and asked if the City could spend \$500,000 on land. Mike Lyonais stated that the City could use cash to purchase land. Dave Nevin asked if Ted Strand had spoken to the owner of the land adjacent to the sewer plant. Ted Strand replied that he has not been able to contact him.

Dave Nevin read into the record two emails from Crosslake resident Liz Luskey. Ms. Luskey asked what the process was to justify the expenditures to the city council and taxpayers the need for new equipment and road repairs, what inspection of the equipment and roads has been done, and what justification has been provided by each department manager. Ms. Luskey also was in favor of the City purchasing the land behind Andy's. Dave Nevin stated that the levy could not be increased now so the City would have to use cash to purchase land.

There were no other public comments.

Dave Schrupp stated that the City may see high bids for the sewer project next year and that he is okay with the budget the way it is.

There being no further business at 6:35 P.M., MOTION 12SP1-01-21 WAS MADE BY AARON HERZOG AND SECONDED BY DAVE NEVIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted by,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk

City of Crosslake

From: Liz Luskey <eluskey64@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 4:41 PM
To: mayornevin@crosslake.net; John Andrews; councilherzog@crosslake.net;
 councilschrupp@crosslake.net; councilvolz@crosslake.net
Cc: City of Crosslake
Subject: 2022 Crosslake Budget

Mayor Nevin and Council Members,

I have questions on the proposed budget for 2022. I would raise them at the next city council meeting but will be out of town due a family commitment. The purpose of this email is to address my concerns in advance of that meeting.

I see significant increases in year over year capital spending for equipment and road repairs. If I'm understanding the budget files correctly the two categories total over a million dollars in taxpayer dollars.

For each of these projects what is the process to justify the expenditures to the city council and taxpayers before money is actually spent?

In my work experience it would be a standard practice to plan, based on expected useful life, for repairs, maintenance and replacement of equipment. That budget or plan, however, would **not** guarantee that the funds would be approved for expenditure. When the time came to replace equipment the project would have to be financially justified.

My experience is in distribution, examples of equipment we might replace would be delivery trucks and forklifts. To replace equipment like this justification might include excessive downtime due to equipment breakdowns. It might also include excessive cost of repairs where money would be better spent to replace than to continue to repair. A proposal for capital dollars would also include options considered besides replacement. Oftentimes, a well maintained and/or at lower use piece of equipment could be kept well beyond its pre-defined useful life. I would suggest this could be true for road repairs as well as I recall last year a group of responsible citizens saved the community money by asking for their road repairs to be delayed.

As a city council, for each of these capital expenditures what inspection of the equipment and roads has been done? What justification has been provided by each department manager? We shouldn't spend taxpayer dollars based on a schedule but based on a need.

I look to the city council to make fiscally responsible decisions for the taxpayers of Crosslake. To me that requires an in-depth and critical review of all major expenditures.

I look forward to your response and to hopefully see further discussion of these items in the notes from the December 13th meeting. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss in more detail.

Respectfully,
 Liz Luskey
 36853 Bonnie Lakes LN
 Crosslake, MN 56442
 612-508-4644

City of Crosslake

From: Liz Luskey <eluskey64@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 5:03 PM
To: mayornevin@crosslake.net; John Andrews; councilherzog@crosslake.net;
councilschrupp@crosslake.net; councilvolz@crosslake.net
Cc: City of Crosslake
Subject: National Loon Center: Land Between Andy's & Reed's

Mayor Nevin and City Council,

Due to out of town family commitment we will not be able to attend the December city council meeting. The purpose of this message is to raise a question we would have raised in person if we were able to attend the December meeting.

This summer our lake association had a guest speaker from the National Loon Center. It was very informative. Based on discussions with other community members, in my opinion, there are mixed feelings about the Loon Center and what it will mean to the community. While we are excited to have the center in Crosslake we are concerned about the intersection at the Corp and Andy's, and what will happen there as a roundabout gets added along with sidewalks, etc. to support the center.

We recently learned the property behind Andy's is for sale. Has the city considered purchasing that property for city use rather than what appears to be a residence? The property could potentially add parking for the area and include public restrooms, and picnic tables. We would suggest it could be a worthwhile expenditure for the city to purchase the property to provide relief for what sounds like it will be a congested center of town.

Thank you for your consideration of this suggestion.

Tom & Liz Luskey
36853 Bonnie Lakes LN
Crosslake, MN 56442
612-508-4644