

SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022
2:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Crosslake City Council held a Special Workshop on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, Aaron Herzog, Marcia Seibert-Volz, John Andrews and Dave Schrupp. Also present were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, City Clerk Char Nelson, Police Chief Erik Lee, Fire Chief Chip Lohmiller, and City Engineer Phil Martin. Echo Journal Reporter Nancy Vogt attended via Zoom. There were approximately fifteen audience members in City Hall and on Zoom.

Dave Nevin called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. and asked for Council comment on the sewer assessment charges. John Andrews stated that he thought the Council should not assess the property owners and have the City levy for the entire project. Aaron Herzog questioned if the City could still issue bonds if assessments were not issued. Mike Lyonais replied that there are different types of bonds, different State Statutes that regulate how they are used, and that the City could levy and issue bonds to pay for the entire project without issuing assessments.

Dave Schrupp read a prepared statement regarding the cost of the project, the proposed assessments, and the fact the Council has not come up with a fair way to assess the property owners along the project. Mr. Schrupp suggested not charging assessments and raising the cost of connection fees by \$1,000.

Marcia Seibert-Volz asked if Dave Schrupp was ignoring the Ordinance. Ms. Seibert-Volz stated that she proposed assessments based on the Sewer Ordinance and that her proposal is reasonable. Ms. Seibert-Volz stated that the Council needs to assess fairly because the property owners receive a benefit from hooking up. The property owners are assessed 20% of the City's cost and the rest of the property owners in Crosslake are paying 80%. Ms. Seibert-Volz cautioned that if the Council does not assess for the sewer, property owners will not want to pay assessments for road improvements.

A discussion ensued regarding the connection charges that were collected in the first sewer project in 2004. Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that the connection fees should be flat rates of \$4,000 for residential and \$6,500 for commercial and assessments should be allowed to be paid off over 15 years. Mike Lyonais provided information on interest rates and bond payments and stated that the City has two years yet to pay on the original sewer bond from the project in 2004. MOTION 05SP1-01-22 WAS MADE BY JOHN ANDREWS AND SECONDED BY DAVE SCHRUPP TO NOT ISSUE ASSESSMENTS ON THE 2022 SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED 3-2 WITH SEIBERT-VOLZ AND HERZOG OPPOSED.

Dave Nevin suggested that the connection fees be raised because they have been the same since 2006. Mr. Nevin calculated the 2006 rates into 2022 dollars. MOTION 05SP1-02-22 WAS MADE BY DAVE NEVIN AND SECONDED BY JOHN ANDREWS TO RAISE THE SEWER CONNECTION FEES TO \$5,500 FOR RESIDENTIAL AND \$9,200 FOR COMMERCIAL. MOTION CARRIED 4-1 WITH SEIBERT-VOLZ OPPOSED.

MOTION 05SP1-03-22 WAS MADE BY DAVE SCHRUPP AND SECONDED BY JOHN ANDREWS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:40 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk