

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved August 7, 2014

## MINUTES

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

**July 17, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.** Chairman Beifuss called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Aldermen James Beifuss, Sandy Dimas, Don Earley, Mark Edwalds, Al Hallett, and John Smith present. Alderman John Banas arrived at 7:07 P.M.

Also in attendance were Public Works Director Robert Flatter and Utility Superintendent Joseph Munder.

Others in attendance included West Chicago resident Marilyn Kroll.

**2. Approval of Minutes.**

**A. Infrastructure Committee Minutes of June 5, 2014.** Alderman Hallett made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2014 with changes. Voting Yea: Aldermen Hallett, Smith, Beifuss, Dimas, Earley, and Edwalds. Voting Nay: 0. Alderman Banas was absent.

**3. Public Participation / Presentations.** Resident Marilyn Kroll commented that the downtown tunnel project looks really nice now that the landscaping and flowers have been planted. She also asked if the markers placed on the City's fire hydrants are there to identify where the hydrants are. Mr. Flatter confirmed.

Ms. Kroll then informed Committee and staff that she had reported a pot hole on Main Street and cones have been placed so that no one else drives over it. Ms. Kroll also stated that she witnessed a great job by the Public Works staff during the parade over the weekend.

**4. Items for Consent.** Chairman Beifuss read the items for consent and pulled Items 4.A., and 4.B. Alderman Dimas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve consent items:

- C. Purchase One 2014 Ford F-150 2wd Pickup Truck with Lift Gate from Zimmerman Ford of St. Charles, Illinois.**
- D. Purchase One 2015 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck from Haggerty Ford of West Chicago, Illinois.**

**E. Purchase Three 2015 Ford F-350 Pickup Trucks from Haggerty Ford of West Chicago, Illinois.**

**F. Purchase Four 2015 Ford E-350 Cutaway Vans (Cab & Chassis only) from Haggerty Ford of West Chicago, Illinois.**

**Voting Yea: Aldermen Dimas, Smith, Beifuss, Earley, Edwalds and Hallett. Voting Nay:**

**0. Alderman Banas was absent.**

**5. Items for Discussion.** Items 4.A., and 4.B. from Consent items were discussed. Alderman Banas arrived at 7:07 P.M.

**(4.A.) Resolution No. 14-R-0040 – Contract Award – 2014 Metra Station Stairs Reconstruction Project.** Chairman Beifuss asked if staff could explain some of the large differences in unit pricing that were received from the various contractors for this project. Mr. Flatter stated that bids often vary per line item amongst different contractors with no good explanation.

Chairman Beifuss stated that there are handrails included as part of this contract and he wanted to know if this would cause a delay in project completion. Mr. Flatter stated that the handrails specified for the Metra Station are 2" tubular (standard) rails, because the station is not in the historic district, and should not cause any delay. The contractor was given a 60-day work schedule from their Notice to Proceed to complete the project. It is anticipated that construction will begin around the first of August.

Mr. Flatter explained that there is still an issue with the sanitary forcemain but staff is working on alternative solutions. Alderman Banas asked why the stairs will be repaired before the forcemain. Mr. Flatter explained that there is a risk to replacing the stairs before the forcemain, but the repairs made to the forcemain have held up and no leaks have been noticed. Some of the other drainage issues, thought to be groundwater, have also stopped. Due to convenience for commuters, and aesthetics, staff feels it is pertinent to go ahead with the stairway repairs. Alderman Banas acknowledged that there is a risk to repair the stairs before the forcemain, which gives him pause. Chairman Beifuss stated that he concurs with staff's decision, as there is also a safety risk to commuters until the stairs are repaired.

**Chairman Beifuss made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve Resolution No. 14-R-0040 authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract Award for the 2014 Metra Station Stairs Reconstruction Project. Voting Yea: Aldermen Beifuss, Smith, Banas, Dimas, Earley, Edwalds, and Hallett. Voting Nay: 0.**

**(4.B.) Resolution No. 14-R-0041 – Contract Award – Water Well Solutions Illinois Division, LLC for Services Related to the Maintenance and Repairs of the Well and Well Assembly at the City's Well Station No. 3.** Chairman Beifuss stated that the report from Water Well solutions comments that the factor in the life of a bearing (one that is broken within the pump) is due to fluctuations in the level of the well and that the level should be kept at least 50' above the pump assembly. Due to seasonal fluctuations and times when the level is lower, there are times when the pump and motor assembly experiences loss of suction, resulting in turbulence and leading to the destruction of the bearing. He asked how we can assure that this won't

happen in the future. Should an optimum depth be kept and how is this monitored? Mr. Flatter stated that he feels this information in the report is grasping at a reason for the break and staff does not concur. Mr. Munder explained how the wells are monitored on a weekly basis and during the years of 2012 and 2013, they have never seen the levels below 50'.

Chairman Beifuss asked if there was an alarm system that notifies the treatment plant if suction is lost in the wells. Mr. Munder said that there is not, but the treatment plant will immediately know if any suction or pressure is lost. There were no indications that the bearing was about to break down. Mr. Munder explained that the only other option would be to install a pressure system (transducer) at the bottom of each well and have them monitored by a SCADA system, which is a huge expense, and mostly problematic.

Alderman Banas asked if the wells have flow switches. Mr. Munder said that each well has a flow switch which can trigger alarms. Weekly, amperage to the pump is also monitored. Alderman Banas asked how long the replacement bearing will last. Mr. Munder said it should last approximately forty or fifty years. Mr. Flatter added that these pumps are pulled and rehabilitated about every six to seven years.

Alderman Earley asked about the portion of the report that talks about iron bacteria growth. Mr. Munder explained that this is a bacterium that is non-harmful to humans. A chemical treatment will be used to destroy the growth. Mr. Munder also confirmed Alderman Earley's inquiry about increased pumpage from the well after the rehabilitation.

**Alderman Earley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Banas to approve Resolution No. 14-R-0041 authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract with Water Well Solutions Illinois Division, LLC for Services Related to the Maintenance and Repairs of the Well and Well Assembly at the City's Well Station No. 3. Voting Yea: Aldermen Earley, Banas, Beifuss, Dimas, Edwalds, Hallett, and Smith. Voting Nay: 0.**

## **6. Unfinished Business.**

A. Mr. Flatter stated that at the last meeting, Committee direction to staff was to allocate some of the funds from the sidewalk program to the Alta Vista roadway project, taking some of the \$75,000 from the Sidewalk Program and put it toward addressing ADA ramps in the Alta Vista subdivision and to also bid, as an alternate, the installation of sidewalk on the east side of Lyman. The remaining funds within the sidewalk program were to be used to address trip hazards throughout the City. Staff asked Thomas Engineering to better analyze the sidewalks in Alta Vista. This analysis concluded that \$25,000 will be needed to address the ADA ramp issues, leaving \$50,000. To address all of the condition "4" hazards, it will cost \$80,000.00. Mr. Flatter then concluded that none of the trip hazards (condition "4") within the Alta Vista subdivision will be addressed at this time. They will be addressed in the following year's sidewalk program. Mr. Flatter stated that there is about \$1,000 worth of trip hazards in front of the school on Kenwood, and he has approached the school for a cost share. He has not heard back from them at this time.

B. Chairman Beifuss asked for an update regarding the Main Street Pedestrian Tunnel. Mr. Flatter stated that the railings are the only remaining portion of this project, and he is unsure as to when they will even be fabricated. He explained that he has rejected their first attempt at a mock up to match the stairway railings downtown. Chairman Beifuss asked if they are using the same fabricator. Mr. Flatter stated that he pushed for them to use the same fabricator, but they went with someone else. Chairman Beifuss asked how long it would take to fabricate the railings and Mr. Flatter stated 30 to 60 days.

Chairman Beifuss asked staff to provide Committee with any/all correspondence with Mack Construction with regards to their delays. Mr. Flatter stated that there is no written correspondence. They will not provide schedules or explanations, nor have they contested any liquidated damages. Chairman Beifuss directed staff to ask for something in writing from them with respect to all of their delays including the final delay of the fabrication of the railings. Mr. Flatter stated that it is not uncommon for fabricators to hold off until all final measurements, but in this case, the stairs have been done for over six months. Alderman Banas questioned as to whether or not the City may be violating any codes because there aren't any railings. Mr. Flatter stated that the area is secured and not open to the public, therefore no codes have been violated.

## **7. New Business.**

A. Chairman Beifuss stated that he has taken a look at the amount of money spent on fuel on an annual basis, and the City continues to buy vehicles that are not fuel efficient. The police department uses V8 engine vehicles. He went on to say that although he does recognize the importance of the larger engines for the police, but most of the time they are not used for pursuit. He suggests strongly that the City consider using hybrid vehicles in order to save money on fuel. Alderman Edwalds stated that tests are constantly ran on the use of smaller vehicles, which fail miserably. The maintenance costs and downtime overrides the cost of fuel in most cases. The V8 engines are much more efficient. Alderman Hallett and Banas agree with Alderman Edwalds.

Mr. Flatter added that the police pursuit vehicles are priced based on quantity through the state purchasing program. It seems that it would be a disadvantage to buy something different. The larger trucks are purchased for the use of snow plowing, which could not be done with smaller engine units. He further stated that most municipalities are now focused on Explorers.

Chairman Beifuss stated that he would like staff to investigate if there are any other communities/municipalities that use fuel efficient vehicles in order to save money.

## **8. Reports from Staff. None.**

**9. Adjournment.** At 7:45 P.M., Alderman Dimas made a motion to adjourn seconded by Alderman Hallett. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Baldino  
Executive Secretary