

## CITY OF VERGAS STREET COMMITTEE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

11:00 am

Zoom Meeting

Present Mayor Dean Haarstick, Council Member Paul Pinke, Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane, Utilities Employee Matt Engebretson, City Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, Felicia Singer, Lowell Bradbury and Bruce Moe.

### **Requested Meeting Items:**

W Lake Street Plowing

Vergas Snow Plowing Policy – does it need to be updated for gravel roads and plowing during storms for emergencies

Street Employee Schedules – what is the schedule for employees to plow roads and does it need to change for the benefit of Vergas Residents

### **Discussion:**

W Lake Street has been plowed in the past by City employees; with the City truck turning around on Robin Maneval's property. Robin Maneval's property is in Candor Township. In 2020, the plow truck turned around on at the City Property located on W Lake Street due to not having any City residents living past the property. Robin Maneval had stated at an earlier meeting held at Candor Township Hall; they plow from their home to road and the City does not need to take care plowing. Candor Township Board Member Lowell Bradbury stated he has checked with the County and State and W Lake Street is a City road and the township is not allowed to plow City Roads. City is liable to keep the entire road open. There is no place to turn around on the end of West Lake Street and there are no trespassing signs on Maneval's property. Committee recommended Lammers get written permission for City vehicles to turn around on Maneval's property. Haarstick stated the City also turns around on Kruzel property on Old Detroit Road. DuFrane said Haarstick was wrong; he will not and does not turn around on their property.

Gravel road plowing was discussed. Lammers asked Bradbury about Candor Township policy. Bradbury stated the township does not plow gravel roads during the first snowfall unless it is over 6 inches of snow. This will allow snow to pack down the road so gravel remains intact. Discussion for City of Vergas policy ended with no recommendation by committee.

DuFrane was asked about the snow plowing of Main Street and other city roads during emergencies. DuFrane stated he did everything according to policy and does not feel he did anything wrong. DuFrane feels the snow on roads during last weeks storm is a county issue and it is their responsibility and the county should have been called. (No one ever decided who calls the county) DuFrane stated the city does not have a black road policy and he does not plow during storms when no travel is advised. Committee recommends investigation of county responsibility (DuFrane will have information for Council Meeting). Committee would like to see guidelines for snow removal not policy. This is something for future Council and street committee to discuss. Discussed truck sliding down hill by Franklin Fence-Haarstick stated it is next to impossible for all accidents to be avoided. Hill located on Main Street by Franklin Fence is usually sanded. With the weather conditions on December 23, 2020 the sand would have made zero difference. No recommendation was made to change snow removal policy.

Discussed why no street department employees were on duty on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Lammers read email from personnel committee stating perhaps five-day coverage will come up, as looking at having personnel meeting with Mike and Matt that we have five-day coverage versus both having the same day off. DuFrane stated he was looking at saving on the current budget and there was a blizzard and no travel was advised. DuFrane feels having two employees paid time and a half from 2 am to 5 am is better for the budget than having one employee work during regular business hours. He would like a personnel meeting to

discuss this. Pinke asked why they need to start working at 2 am? DuFrane responded due to traffic and asked Haarstick to answer explain. Haarstick stated, if you wait for the county to go thru first, it is easier to clean up the wind rows. 8 am is way too late to start cleaning up after a snowstorm, as downtown needs to be open by 6:30 am. Haarstick emphasized this should be a guideline not a policy.

Haarstick reminded DuFrane to have county information for the council meeting and stated he does not feel a personnel meeting needs to be called until after the next City Council meeting and no recommendation was made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Julie Lammers  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
City of Vergas

### **Council Recommendations**

Council to set up guidelines for the snow plowing.

### **Follow up Actions**

Lammers get written permission to for City vehicles to turn around on Robin Maneval property.  
DuFrane to provide county agreement to Council.

### **Information after meeting:**

Both Julie Bruhn and Paul Pinke called county for information and the county returned the following information to Julie Lammers.

The County beings plowing between 3-5 am and has all their trucks off the road by 6 pm. (It takes them 4 hours to plow all county roads and they are usually done with the first plowing by 7 am.)

During heavy snow, they plow snow to the middle of Main Street and have asked City to have snow piles removed by 7 am.

During lighter snowfalls they push snow towards the curb for City to remove throughout the day.