

The City Street Committee met on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 2pm, at the Vergas Event Center. In attendance were Julie Bruhn, Bruce Albright, Mike Dufrane, Matt Engebretson and 2 Otter Tail Highway Department employee's (Kristi Fields and Stephon)

1. Otter Tail County snow removal and ice control operations were presented. Further discussed was how this is done in Vergas and the verbal agreement in place where the county plows snow to curb or middle of Vergas Main Street and the City of Vergas does the further removal. The City is paid for this service. This agreement has been in place for several years and has been working well for both the county and the city. Copies were provided on the OTC Winter Maintenance Agreement with the city regarding sand/salt materials, OTC Highway Maintenance Operations Policy and OTC winter operations plan.

2. Discussed ice control measures and issues with steep grade hills. The City of Vergas has purchased 50-50 sand salt mix in addition to the 10% mix currently utilized. The county does not sand with cold temperatures and recommended to the City not doing when temperature below 5 degrees. The county noted concerns of having a business utilizing a public road for unloading semi's and asked about alternate routes to prevent slippery issues on the hill going into the main business street. Snow and Ice control are not adapted for fork lifts.

3. Reviewed revised city policy on Snow Removal and Ice control. Changes largely; addition of when snow removal and ice control operations begin, agreement with OTC, snow removal on gravel road and different policy format. The policy revision was concurred upon with minor wording changes. Will bring policy to next City Council meeting for approval.

4. Reviewed revised city policy regarding Snow Plow Damage to Mailboxes, Sod, Sprinkler Systems or Other Property Improvements located in the Right-of-Way. Policy concurred upon with the change as presented. Changes entailed change of Utilities Supervisor to Utilities Superintendent, and different policy format. Will bring policy to next City Council meeting for approval.

5. Discussed operator time and attendance with snow removal and ice control. Utilities Superintendent reviewed how snow removal is conducted and the essential aspects of having self and Maintenance Operator doing the work together. It was agreed there are advantages of having both operators for the operation, however cognizance needed regarding budget when 2 employees on differential pay/overtime.

Recommendations for City Council:

Approval of revised policy Snow Removal and Ice Control

Approval of revised policy Damage to Mailboxes, Sod, Sprinkler System or other Property Improvements Located in the Right of Way.

Recorder/Julie Bruhn