

Street/Sidewalks/Yard Waste Committee Meeting Minutes
Vergas Event Center
October 5, 2023

1.) A meeting of the Vergas Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste (SSYW) Committee was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Vergas Event Center. Present was Bruce Albright and Paul Pinke, Vergas City Council; Julie Lammers, City Clerk; Mike DuFrane, Utility Superintendent; Blane Green, Widseth, via Zoom. Albright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2.) Agenda Additions/Deletions. (See Other).

3.) Minutes for the 09/07/23 SSYW Committee meeting was presented. **Motion** by Pinke to approve, **seconded** by Albright, **approved**.

4.) Street Lighting. At the 09/07/23 SSYW meeting, Lori Moxness, Otter Tail Power (OTP) said that fiberglass poles for Lawrence Lake Acres could eventually be replaced with metal poles. Since then, she's learned that they cannot be upgraded. Therefore, a new recommendation will need to be made to the City Council at their upcoming 10/10/23 meeting. Initially, the SSYW Committee recommended, and the Council approved, installing fiberglass poles at this time, which would eventually be replaced with permanent metal poles. Moxness has developed three new options for consideration. All three involve the "esplanade" lighting, but with varying numbers of poles. Pinke thought that "Option 1", with nine poles, for a monthly cost of \$1,286.54/month was the option to recommend to Council.

5.) Storm Sewer Mapping. Green said the mapping is basically completed, but they are still waiting for Otter Tail County Highway Department to furnish them with any information they may have about the county road system in Vergas. Lammers said there is a new icon on our computers, titled "Field Maps", and once when totally installed will show the various arc view maps prepared for Vergas, including the storm sewer system. Green gave a demonstration of the tool. Pinke said that the Vergas Hardware is not interested in tying their roof drainage into the City's storm sewer system at this time.

6.) West (W) Lake Street (ST). Widseth is looking into a 2023 Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) grant for the improvement of this road section. The Council approved submitting the grant application at their 09/12/23 meeting. Green said that the grant application will also require County Board approval.

7.) Street Easements. For W Lake ST, we'll wait to see if we get the LRIP grant before beginning the right-of-way (R/W) analysis.

For East (E) Lake ST and North (N) Railway Avenue (AVE), the City's Attorney, Tom Winters, should have what he needs to start the necessary easement preparations. Albright we should stake the proposed R/W to see if there are impacts with Tyler Schmid's building or fence.

For W Sunset Strip, the SSYW Committee scheduled an informational meeting with the affected landowners for Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM, Vergas Event Center. We want to discuss the varying options that have been developed by Widseth for modifying this road section to allow for a turn around for the City's equipment (snowplow). Since this road section has never been made officially a city street, the process also involves acquiring the necessary road R/W. The meeting would allow updating that landowners about the process and where things are currently at.

8.) 140 E Linden. Sonnenberg Excavating has a bid of \$30,000 to demolish the building. They would like to salvage the garage doors. Lammers has a bid from Eastman Fence & Sons LLC, Detroit Lakes, for fencing on the east and west property lines. For the west line with Vergas Ford, Lammers was thinking a 6' high privacy fence. Brown treated lumber would cost \$6,000 for 100'. A Trex privacy fence would cost \$14,000. The Trex product would require less maintenance. Trex composite has a 25-year limited warranty.

For the east line with Hanson's Plumbing, they are recommending 70' of 3' high galvanized chain link fence at \$2,200. DuFrane thought the chain link fencing will get damaged by snow removal. He questioned why we needed to install fence at all? Albright said last winter we had snow from the east neighbor pushed onto the City's property. Fencing would stop that. DuFrane also questioned where we were going to place the cardboard dumpster from the County? One other option for the east line fence would be to install guard rail. Green estimated that this could cost \$150 - \$200/foot. The SSW Committee will recommend to the Council that the Trex fencing be installed along the west property line ASAP. We will wait with the east property line fencing install until 2024 for further discussion. For this winter, we could at least put posts on the east property line.

9.) Budget - Goal Setting. The Committee spent considerable time at the 07/20/23 meeting, going over numbers for the City's 2024 proposed budget. In 2024, we'll also probably have to look at our part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Our last CIP was dated August 2019, and was done by KLJ Engineering.

10.) Other. Lammers said that over time, the camera at the recycling site hasn't worked very well. Each time Arvig has to fix it, it costs \$120, which gets billed to yard waste. All in all, both Pinke and Albright thought things were going better at the yard waste site, with the increased permit fee, new signs, etc. We still have some violators. We have had some complaints about the recent burning of the wood pile, and the smoke. Others have questioned if the remaining ash is hazardous?

DuFrane said with the recent improvements to Glenn ST, there is a manhole that should be raised. The SSW Committee thought that it would be reasonable to split the costs with the developer 50/50. We'll also have to look at installing the necessary signage for the new development.

Albright has checked with Fergus Power Pump, who apply magnesium Chloride. There costs right now are about \$1/foot for an 18' pass. DuFrane thought that Stenger also applies the product.

DuFrane discussed the brushing work with Timberline Brush Management. They got started on Townline Road (RD), but their machine broke down. As soon as it is fixed, they will be back. They are also going to do some work on W Lake ST.

At the trailhead on Tin Can Alley, Albright suggested that some posts be installed along the native grass seeding that was completed this summer between the road and the lake. The work is right on the road edge, and this winter, we wouldn't want the snowplow equipment to damage the seeding.

10.) Next Meeting. A date for the next SSW Committee meeting was not scheduled at this time.

11.) Adjournment. Albright adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by;

Bruce E. Albright, City Council Member

Council Recommendations:

- Authorize Council to accept street lighting Option No. 1 for Lawrence Lake Acres.

Follow up Actions:

- Widseth to complete R/W study for E Lake ST, including acreage calculations and to turn drawings over to Attorney to prepare easements.
- Continue to work on budgets, and future road funding needs.
- Continue to work on City parking, Work on handicap parking spots.
- Continue to work on snow removal, sidewalk, and parking ordinances/policies to address concerns. Snow emergency routes?

Future Meeting Agenda Items:

- none, at this time.