

City of Watseka  
201 Brianna Dr  
PO Box 338  
Watseska, IL. 60970

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**APRIL 13, 2021**  
**7:15 PM**

**PRESENT:** Alderman Cahoe, Marcier, Barragree, Rushbrook, Yates, Miller, Garfield,  
Alderwoman Ulfers, Mayor Allhands

**GUEST:** Public Works Supervisor Marvin DeLahr

Alderman Cahoe opened the meeting at 7:15 pm. There was no public comment. Public Works Supervisor Marvin DeLahr reported on the following projects:

**Mowing Contract:** The City received bids on the 4 mowing contracts and they were opened on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Marvin gave the committee a spreadsheet showing the contractors, bid amounts and funding options for the mowing. Marvin stated there were 5 bidders and 4 bid options.

Based on Marvin's recommendations the total for mowing will be \$143,008.00. After discussion

**Alderman Barragree makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the bid from Natures View for mowing parks at \$48,096.00 (payable through parks fund).**

**Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 8-1 with Alderman Marcier voting no.**

**Alderman Barragree makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the bid from Nature's View for \$51,952 for the open areas (payable through 3 different funds-\$7200 from wastewater fund for WWTP & Mulberry lift station, \$3700 from water fund for well 6 & 10, Oak St & West Water towers, \$41052.00 paid thru streets & alleys fund). Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

**Alderman Barragree makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the bid from Precision Mowing for mowing of the City owned lots payable through a new line item in the general fund for \$19,260.00. Alderman Rushbrook seconded. Roll call carried 9-0. Alderman Barragree makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the bid from Precision Mowing for \$23,700.00 for mowing of private lots payable from the current line item in the general fund. Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

**Traffic Lights:** Marvin received an email from Outsen Electric stating the traffic controller and cabinet located at 5<sup>th</sup> & Walnut St has gone bad. The ICC and their engineers have recommended the replacement of them. The proposal for the labor and the equipment was in the amount of \$29,000.00. Marvin stated the state should reimburse the City for half of this. It was discussed other controllers are also aging and could be a problem eventually. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to repair the traffic controller and cabinet located at 5<sup>th</sup> & Walnut for \$29,000.00 and Alderman Rushbrook seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

**Retaining Wall:** Marvin presented a proposal from Lavicka Works in the January Public Works meeting to make repairs and upgrades to the retaining wall on the main ditch just east of N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. The proposal for the work was in the amount of \$29,975.00. Alderman Barragree stated this was not put in the budget for this upcoming fiscal year. This will be tabled for now.

**Budget:** Marvin gave the committee a copy of his proposed budget for the next fiscal year. There are a number of factors to be taken into consideration before this can be finalized. a) are employee wages going to be substantially raised as Marvin has been told by the Alderman, b) if the mowing bids are not accepted then the number of additional employee's hires should be 3 instead of 1, c) this budget is for day-to-day operations only. Additional items outside of those operations are not included. These would include things as a new dump truck or repairs to the existing dump truck, the above-mentioned traffic light repairs, street & sewer repairs, the main ditch retaining wall repairs, or costs of the backhoe. Raises were discussed of \$19.00/hour with seniority increases of 5, 6 & 8 years. It was stated these rates are included in the upcoming budget. It was stated Alderman Barragree, Marvin, Greg and Dustin all met concerning the budget. Marvin stated his budget consists of streets & alleys, and sewer. Water department budget is water and wastewater. Lift stations and the wwtp are in Greg and Dustin's budget. Alderman Miller asked about all of the new sidewalks repairs and Marvin stated those are not in his budget.

**Kapers Pond:** Marvin was contacted by the local Kiwanis Club regarding a small pavilion they would like to build by Kapers Pond. They have gotten prices from contractors but they don't have a large budget for the project. Marvin suggested they work with the City on the project with them furnishing the materials and Public Works furnishing the labor to build a gazebo instead of a pavilion. The committee will first need to determine if this is what they want to do with the property. There was discussion about getting in touch with Attorney Cainkar to discuss use of property. There will be more discussion in a later meeting.

**Fairman Ave Sewer:** The resident at 902 S 4<sup>th</sup> St. began experiencing sewer back up issues a couple of months ago. Public Works was called out to jet the system but there was not an exterior clean out on the service line. The owner contacted a plumber to install a cleanout and rod out his service line. Two separate plumbers couldn't get past the blockage. Public Works ran the camera thru the main line and discovered R&R Construction didn't connect the service line into the new sewer main when it was installed as part of the Fairman Ave. Lift Station Project that was completed early last year. After some discussion R&R has agreed to come back and make the connection.

**Sewer Lining:** The plans for the sewer work has been submitted to the railroad for their review. Once the City gets their approval we can move forward with the repair and then the sewer lining.

**Equipment:** The new backhoe is scheduled for delivery next month. Marvin was asked to get prices for a stainless steel bed and salt spreader for dump truck #8(2001 International). The proposal from Rahn Equipment for the bed is \$19,990.71 and another \$3,800.00 for the salt spreader. The proposal from Central Body Repair to sandblast and paint the frame is \$1,585.00. This would put our total investment at \$25,375.71. It was stated their has already been \$14,000 in engine repair to this vehicle. It was suggested to possibly buy a new 3 ton and pay for it out of capital purchases and keep the old truck for a backup. A new truck could run as much as \$160,000.00. The committee instructed Marvin to get prices for this months council meeting. Public Works purchased a new jobsite generator for the construction trailer from Watseka Suzuki for \$1,793.46. Marvin has a proposal from Team Reil for playground equipment for Peters Park for \$70,425.00 this includes the playground structure, a swing set and shipping. Marvin stated he has \$100,000 in his park budget and Public Works will install. **Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to purchase playground**

**equipment from Team Reil Inc for Peters Park for \$64,685.00 and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

**Impound Yard:** A Plus Home Improvements started the installation of the new fence on Monday. They will have the work completed by the end of the week. Marvin contacted IPC and they have agreed to donate 1,200 tons of asphalt grindings off the Route 1 resurfacing project for the impound yard and driveway. This will save the City approximately \$25,000.00.

**Miscellaneous:**

- a) Marvin gave the committee an updated list of projects
- b) The old Auxiliary Building located at 790 N Jefferson St has been demolished and Marvin will use some of the millings from Route 1 for parking for the firemen
- c) Public works completed the new building for the yard waste facility
- d) Marvin has placed an order with SWCD for fish to restock the ponds

Alderman Cahoe stated he has talked to Alderman Barragree regarding the upcoming budget for pay increases for employees. He would like to raise the hourly rates for the labors at the public works facility and water/wastewater to \$19.00 an hour. Alderman Barragree stated he put the raises into the budget. There was a lengthy discussion about giving raises without consulting the unions first and the City Attorney. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to increase the payrates for the labors at Public Works and Water/Wastewater departments to \$19.00 an hour and Alderman Marcier seconded. Roll call carried 5-3 with Aldermen Garfield, Miller and Rushbrook voting no and Mayor Allhands abstained.**

Alderman Barragree handed out a proposed budget to the committee to be discussed next week with the Finance committee.

Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

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Dennis Cahoe, Chairman