

## JANUARY 10, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Dave Enke were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper were also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded everyone this special meeting was taking place to meet with Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and get clarification on issues pertaining to the MnDOT 2027 Reconstruction Project in the City of Lake Benton.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper explained that MnDOT provided pricing and alternatives to replace/fix the storm sewers on Highway 75/Fremont Street, Highway 14, Grant Street and the railroad culvert.

MnDOT is planning to reconstruct the storm sewers from the south end of town on Highway 75/Fremont Street by the former Veire's gas station north to Expressway. Fix the storm sewer on US Highway 14 by the school corner of Garfield and Benton Streets (northwest corner by Rich Riley's residence) and replace the lateral line on US Highway 14 (by Bob Redlinger's residence). Additional repairs include going west on Benton Street from Expressway towards the Fire Hall where there are areas of cracking pipe (completed in the 1998 project) from the large trucks driving over the pipes. It has been suggested to replace the piping with an arch pipe to better handle the weight of the fire trucks.

The corner of Bluff and Highway 75 (by the playground) running east the storm sewer is 3/4 full of gravel and replacing that would be an innovative idea. If there are enough funds remaining from the cleaning/televising of the lateral lines this spring, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper would like to request the contractor televise this particular storm sewer and remove the gravel and debris.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper reiterated MnDOT's reasoning to replace the storm sewers on Highway 75/Fremont Street is to perform a complete reconstruction phase that includes replacing curb, gutter, asphalt and storm sewers that are in poor condition.

MnDOT also suggested replacing the culverts underneath the railroad tracks behind approximately six residents on Benton Street. Currently there is a temporary emergency access road to the east of Parkview Drive and two culverts. It was suggested to eliminate the temporary emergency access road and take out the two culverts saving the City \$8,000.00.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper than reminded the Council that MnDOT wants the drainage ditch cleaned up behind the six residents on Benton Street. City Attorney Mike Cable stated the City has adverse possession, but MnDOT needs something in writing. The City has cleaned the sediment and sand by the catch basin twice. The homes/businesses being affected include the City Maintenance Building, Jordan Kelly, Andrea Gorter, and the Wilkinson properties. Dakota Minnesota Eastern Railroad put in the two small culverts behind this area and when we receive heavy rains, the water cannot get thru the tubes because they are too small causing water to back up in the backyards. MnDOT suggests putting in an 8' x 4' culvert box underneath the railroad tracks to open the channel and let the water run freetail, eliminate the access road and remove the two small culverts. Jesse Vlaminck with MnDOT is scheduling a meeting between the City, MnDOT and the railroad.

Discussion took place on funding for the project and how soon do we begin looking for it. MnDOT will be paying for the asphalt, curb and gutter and will assist the City in getting funding for the water, sewer, and storm sewer infrastructure which makes it look stronger if the City is working with MnDOT.

The City will need to talk with Vince Robinson to begin the process of getting funding in 2023 or 2024 which is three to four years in advance of the project. MnDOT's Conceptual Opinion of Probable Cost includes Highway 75 reconstruction, Highway 14 rehabilitation, Railroad Box Culvert, and Grant Street Improvements totaling \$1.5 million. The water, sewer and storm sewer infrastructure will cost the City approximately \$1 million with a final total of \$2.5 million in funding.

The Council then questioned if the sewer ponds are large enough. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council that contracting the televising and cleaning will help eliminate a lot of inflow and infiltration and should fix the majority of the leaks in town. Therefore, there will be enough room in the ponds. Minnesota Pollution Control suggested removing the silt and add a plastic liner to replace the clay ponds that were built in 1967.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then thanked Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper for his expertise and explanation of the project. The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:30 PM which will include the assessment hearing on the Fremont Street project done in 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl and carried, the meeting adjourned.

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK