

JULY 11, 2023

A Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Patrick Haynes, Karen Lichtsinn and Scott Christensen were present. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield and Todd Draper, Jesse Vlaminc with MnDOT, and Nicole Gulick and Stephanie Rathburn with Alliant Engineering were also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to get an update on the upcoming Highway 75 Project that is scheduled for construction in 2027. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present, and introductions were made.

Jesse Vlaminc explained the start location of the project will start at the south end of Fremont Street and stop at Highway 14. MnDOT will also be doing a mill overlay on a portion of Highway 14 in Lake Benton to the Lincoln/Lyon County line. Jesse explained their purpose to get back with the City was to share the concept geometrical layouts of the project with the Council and City staff. The layouts were previously designed by MnDOT but the designers left and MnDOT had to go through the process of requesting proposals from firms to complete the design. This took several months to complete the process and appreciated the City's patience. The layouts include a bump out at Bluff Street and Benton Street and a small bump out on the south end of Fremont Street. The layout allows 10' and 12' parking on both sides along Fremont Street, 6' sidewalks, and MnDOT and Alliant Engineering are proposing a curb type entrance area to the gas station. Alliant Engineering is working through the profiling and grading issues and has created a spreadsheet of all the parcels showing current layouts and the proposed impact on the homeowners. MnDOT will replace all the sidewalks and remove the trees on both sides of the street and replace the removed trees with altered landscaping. MnDOT provides standard steel post lighting but anything above the standard steel would be at the City's expense, and Jesse will confirm this information with MnDOT's traffic engineer. Jesse then stated all the drainage structures on Highway 75 will be done by MnDOT.

Stephanie Rathburn then provided the proposed hydraulic design which included two alternatives for the storm sewer design outlet. Stephanie first informed the Council and City staff that MnDOT will repair the storm sewer on Benton Street from Station One to the Clinic that has a section of storm sewer that needs to be replaced, lowered and get to the appropriate size in order to function better to meet drainage standards. Stephanie then focused on the two alternatives for the storm sewer outlet located off North Grant Street. The first alternative is a minimal approach which includes repairing only the storm sewer that is leaking off Grant Street, and the second alternative is to approve the design to meet the storm sewer standards which will improve the water drainage issues presented to the Council in October of 2022. Stephanie stated the second alternative meets the City's current needs however, it will be a larger cost to the City and the City would pay the majority of the cost at 93.7% with MnDOT paying 4.3% and Lincoln County paying 2%. It was suggested to address the drainage issue by Johansen's Repair when reviewing the final hydraulic design.

Discussion took place on DM&E Railroad replacing the culvert that is collapsing. Jesse stated neither the City nor the State can make the railroad replace the culvert. Last year, Jesse Vlaminc and DM&E Railroad representatives met with Todd Draper to look at the site and the railroad agreed their culvert was undersized. Alliant Engineering recommended one (1) 10' x 4' culvert box, and it was understood the railroad would do the work themselves and the City would pay for the ballast and culvert box. It was the consensus of the Council for City staff to contact the railroad and find out the status of this project.

Jesse then stated the City will need to get the hydraulic design on Grant Street taken care of and put a timeline together first. MnDOT will put bids out in July 2026, let the project in September 2026, and remove the trees in the spring of 2027. The City should involve Banner Associates by the summer of 2025 and have Banner provide the design of the utilities (water and sewer) to the City to give to MnDOT by the fall of 2025. MnDOT will share their elevation findings with Banner.

Jesse then informed the Council and City staff that MnDOT will send letters to the homeowners impacted by the project and they plan to have that completed by this fall. MnDOT feels it is easier to talk with the homeowners on a one-on-one basis regarding their layout, existing retaining walls, roads, driveway, trees, etc. and revise the layout as needed. MnDOT will then get Municipal Consent by submitting the layout with a letter requesting City Council approval and the letter will also include a good faith cost estimate of the City's share of the cost to include the water, sewer, storm sewer drainage outlet off Grant Street, 10% of the parking area on Fremont Street, and any lighting above the states standard lighting. The City Council will then schedule and hold public hearings on the project.

Jesse confirmed to the Council and City staff that the City will enter into an agreement with MnDOT for MnDOT to take the lead of the entire process which will include the City's water and sewer infrastructure. The funds for construction are due to the state in September 2026.

The estimated time of construction will take the entire summer of 2027. MnDOT and the City will meet again in the fall of 2023. Jesse Vlaminck then stated that MnDOT will not need to move the City shed on Benton Street to put in a holding pond, and Jesse will talk to MnDOT to confirm this statement. The Council and City staff thanked Jesse, Nicole and Stephanie for attending the meeting.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then informed the Council that this is a major project and he will be calling special meetings to discuss the project when needed. The Council then discussed having Mayor Michael Carpenter contact Pat Carey with Banner Associates and Vince Robinson on borrowing money for the project.

Mayor Michael Carpenter stated that when Banner meets with the City, he will try to schedule it when Todd Draper is in town. Mayor Michael Carpenter would first like to have a preliminary engineering meeting to include Pat Carey with Banner Associates, Water, Sewer and Street Committee liaisons Mayor Michael Carpenter and Trustee Karen Lichtsinn, Todd Draper, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen. Mayor Michael Carpenter then stated that although he and Trustee Karen Lichtsinn are on the water, sewer and street committee he would like to include the entire Council on this committee for the 2027 Reconstruction Project in the City of Lake Benton.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Patrick Haynes and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK