

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 21, 2019

6:00 PM

- A. 2020 Fairview Road, Golf Course Drive, Excelsior Road & Trail Connection and Oakwood Trail Connection Improvements Project

WSB Consulting Engineers Chuck Rickart & Chris Sonmor.

WSB was awarded the 2020 Street Improvements Project at the April City Council meeting. The following work has been completed since award of the project:

- 1. Topographic Survey**
- 2. Meeting with the Fairview Road businesses to discuss project phasing and temporary access during construction.**
- 3. Updates to the feasibility study for the Oakwood Drive Trail and the Excelsior Road, Golf Course Drive and Fairview Road Improvements project originally completed by SEH.**
- 4. New geometrics provided by SRF have been incorporated into the Excelsior Road layout.**
- 5. Reviewed the need for either easement or right-of-way acquisition adjacent to Oakwood Drive for the construction of the new trail.**

During the meeting with the Fairview Road businesses, phasing, temporary access during construction and impacts during construction were discussed. After discussing with the business owners, the group agreed that the reconstruction of Fairview Road would be least impactful to business by completing that segment immediately in the spring of 2020. They would like to have the temporary accesses constructed prior to beginning to maintain access to their businesses during construction.

The geometrics from the SRF study were provided to WSB by City Staff. Those revisions have been incorporated into the current exhibits provided at the work session. The revisions include some minor changes to the lane geometry, closing the west access to Fleet Farm and trail alignment modifications to the SEH study previously approved.

WSB & City Staff met with Crow Wing County staff to discuss an easement for the new trail adjacent to Oakwood Drive. After meeting with County Staff and discussing further with City Staff, WSB was directed to look at the option of permanently acquiring 30-feet of right of way for the trail rather than easements. A number of factors contributed to that decision. First, the process through the County is very lengthy and requires annual renewals. In addition, County Staff was unable to assure the City of Baxter that the easement would be available for 30-years. One of the conditions of the DNR Grant Application submitted by the City is to maintain a trail for 30-years. Without a guarantee from the County on a 30-year easement, City Staff is hesitant to continue to pursue an easement.

Finally, with a future trail extension planned past Whipple Beach to Welton Road, City Staff thought that it made sense to acquire the property for that extension at this time as well. The proposal at this time would be to acquire 30-feet of right-of-way on the east side of Oakwood Drive from Cedar Scenic Road to Welton Road to accommodate the needs of the proposed trail section in 2020 as well as the future trail extension past Whipple Beach. An additional 30-feet of right-of-way would also be acquired on the west side of Oakwood Drive from Camp Vasanek to Whipple Beach for the 2020 construction.

Discussions have previously been held with Camp Vasamek and city staff believe the Camp will support the trail.

The council consensus was to purchase the additional right-of-way for the trail rather than seek an easement.

- B. Biological Filtration Water Treatment Plant Pilot Study Report Presentation
WSB Consulting Engineer Dave Schultz.

The City of Baxter retained WSB, Dave Schultz, to conduct a pilot study to assess the effectiveness of biological filtration for the removal of iron, manganese, and ammonia from the raw water in the City's wells. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) considers biological filtration to be an efficient and effective treatment method for treating ammonia, iron, manganese, and other contaminants in public drinking water supplies while it significantly reduces the amount of chemicals that are needed for water treatment. WSB set-up a skid mounted biological filtration pilot plant (pilot plant) inside the Baxter Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on November 26, 2018 and conducted a pilot study from December 6, 2018 to March 11, 2019.

The pilot study was conducted for fourteen weeks. The initial twelve weeks included the filter acclimation and removal efficiency phases. The acclimation phase is when bacteria start to grow in the filters. Once the filters were acclimated, several tests were completed to test filter performance. Two backwash recovery tests were completed during the twelfth and thirteenth weeks of the study to test the removal efficiency of the biological filters following a filter backwash. A one-week shut-down test was also completed during the fourteenth week to test bacterial survival after an extended plant shut-down period.

The Utilities Commission heard the presentation at its May 8, 2019 meeting and, after discussion, voted to proceed with the following engineering studies:

- Feasibility Study - \$18,000.00 - \$25,000.00
- Water Trend Analysis and Forecast - \$3,000.00 - \$5,000.00
- Conduct a Study of the Waste Stream Generated at the Water Treatment Plant - \$20,000.00 - \$25,000.00.

While staff concurs with the recommendation of the commission, staff needs to have additional discussion and consideration on timeline and financial implications on the recommended engineering studies. A formal request to

proceed with the three studies will be presented at a council meeting in June.

**MOTION by Mark Cross, seconded by Connie Lyscio to adjourn at 6:59 p.m.
Motion passed. Absent: Holman, Tabatt**