

Public Works Committee
Village of Belgium

July 26, 2017, 6:00 pm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Josh Borden.

Roll Call of Officers: Members present: Trustees Josh Borden, Clem Gottsacker and Gail Kowalkowski. A quorum was established. Also in attendance were Village Attorney Gerry Antoine and Village Clerk, Julie Lesar. Also attending were Village President Vickie Boehnlein, DPW employees, Dan Birenbaum and Pat Wester, Attorney Ed Ritger, Lila & Ryan Mueller.

Open Meeting Law Compliance Check: This meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Law of the State of Wisconsin.

Pledge to Flag, Moment of Silence: All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Agenda Items:

Review and discuss letter received from Attorney Ritger regarding tree located at 634, 640-642 Main Street: Borden introduced Attorney Ed Ritger representing the Mueller's. Ritgers explained that the Village and County have begun condemnation proceedings to acquire the tree and remove it as part of the Main Street reconstruction project. The Mueller's are willing to be financially responsible for the tree and any possible liability in the future if it is allowed to stay. He referred to the letter and information packet which he provided to all the committee members which explains the advantages of keeping the tree, provides an arborist report, and offers sidewalk option to work around the tree. Borden questioned the potential of liability if the tree were kept and possibly falls and causes damage. Ritger replied that the Mueller's are willing to sign a covenant so that the Village is not liable for any damage that the tree may cause in the future. Boehnlein pointed out that the Mueller's will not be compensated for landscaping compensation in the final Temporary Limited Easement offer if the tree will remain on the property. The Mueller's agreed to this statement and added that they will be financially responsible for added costs of construction to work around the tree. The Mueller's will also be responsible for any added cost for the storm sewer laterals. The Mueller's also stated that they are willing to disclose this agreement to any future owners of this property. Borden made a recommendation to the Village Board to allow the tree to stay provided the homeowner assumes all responsibility for the tree if it causes damages, returns to the Village temporary easement of the tree if it dies, covers the cost of replacing the sidewalk per original plan, and homeowner is responsible for the cost of the cleanup of the tree if it falls or dies. This agreement would transfer to any new owner of the property. Motion was seconded by Gottsacker. Ayes – Borden, Gottsacker, and Kowalkowski; Noes – none, Abstain – none. Motion carried. Attorney Ritger and Village Attorney, Antoine will provide an agreement to be presented at the August 14 Village Board meeting.

Review 2017 budget and plan 2018 budget: the committee reviewed the 2017 year-to-date expenditures. It was noted that meeting pay Birenbaum was significantly high. Lesar will verify this amount and make the needed correction. Birenbaum pointed out that because of the Main Street project, he has been working significantly more hours than what is budgeted. Birenbaum will complete a Village drive-thru to determine needed projects for 2018. The Budget will be review at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm was made by Borden and seconded by Kowalkowski. Ayes – Borden, Gottsacker, Kowalkowski; Noes – none; Abstain – none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lesar
Village Clerk
Approved at Public Works Committee Meeting 8-30-2017