

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 7, 2010
Administrative Center – Room 3220
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Spiker, Arlene Benrud, Jim Berns, Ralph Geary, Jai Johnson, Leon Pfaff

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jeff Schroeder

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Dennis Osgood, Jim Speropulos, Hank Koch, Margaret Norden, Keith Back, Bill Shepherd, Gary Invgalson, Ray Ebert, Dave Lange, Amy Krueger

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Spiker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2009, COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION by Johnson/Benrud to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2009, Committee Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

CONSENT AGENDA (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Minutes of Economic Development Fund Committee meeting of December 3, 2009

b. Minutes of LEC Construction Committee meeting of December 8, 2009

MOTION by Berns/Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

APPROVE CHECK REQUISITIONS OVER \$20,000 (HANDOUT)

Dennis Osgood presented the following check requisitions:

North American Salt Co.	\$67,300.83
WI DOT	\$21,328.40

MOTION by Pfaff/Berns to approve the Check Requisitions. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused. Chair Spiker asked about the necessity of committee approval for budgeted expenses. Gary Invgalson replied that approval was not mandated by ordinance for budgeted items. In the future the check requisitions will be informational only.

AUTHORIZE SOLICITATION FOR WARRANT STUDIES FOR SPEED AND SIGNALS ON CTH OT

Dennis Osgood followed up on a public request for traffic controls on CTH OT that was presented at the December 7, 2009, meeting. Osgood reported that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation requires a speed study to warrant speed reduction and a signal warrant study to determine if signals are needed. A traffic count and turning movement study would need to be done. He has spoken with Tom Faella, Municipal Planning Organization, about funding, and was informed that study funds are depleted. He stated he could issue a Request for Proposal to seek bids to conduct studies. Discussion was held about holding over the matter for budget discussions in fall, 2010. Osgood explained he would only solicit bids, but would not proceed with either studies or highway changes without further committee approval. **MOTION** by Spiker/Berns to authorize the Highway Commissioner to solicit bids for warrant studies for speed and signals on CTH OT. A roll call vote was taken as

follows: Ayes – Benrud, Berns, Pfaff, Spiker; Nays – Geary, Johnson. **Motion carried 4-2.** Schroeder excused.

APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LA CROSSE COUNTY AND NSP FOR 2010

Hank Koch reported that Xcel charges the County to process waste and generate energy, and the County receives a fuel credit. One of the components in the fuel credit is based on three coal-fired energy plants and the cost to purchase fuel at those plants. One of the coal plants has been switched to gas, and Xcel asked to renegotiate the fuel index. The following resolution allows for a change in the fuel index calculations; the memorandum of understanding allows for the 2009 reduction in guaranteed tonnage from 73,000 tons to 70,000 tons to be extended to 2010, and an additional day for Xcel maintenance. Dave Lange explained that the MOU is for one year and does not formally amend the contract. **MOTION** by Pfaff/Geary to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between La Crosse County and NSP. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LA CROSSE COUNTY AND NORTHERN STATES POWER

The Resolution provides for removal of one of NSP's Minnesota plants from the current agreement because it was converted from coal to gas in 2009. The conversion affects the energy adjustments derived from NSP's RDF facility that must be reported to the Energy Information Administration. These changes affect the calculation of the fuel credit and will be a permanent change to the contract. **MOTION** by Pfaff/Benrud to approve the Resolution Re: Approval of Amendment No. 6 to the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement Between La Crosse County and Northern States Power. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

UPDATE ON DIOXINS, WASTE-TO-ENERGY AND PLASTIC RECYCLING

Hank Koch gave a Power Point presentation that covered dioxins, waste to energy production, greenhouse gas emissions, and plastic recycling. He reported that the County's investment in upgrades at the Xcel waste to energy (WTE) plant has paid off with 96% dioxin reduction, per EPA studies. Compared to coal plants, the EPA has concluded that WTE power plants produce electricity with less environmental impact than almost any other source of electricity. He reported that burn barrels account for 8% of dioxins nationwide. To ban them would require a local ordinance. He reported that La Crosse County's system has low greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). He stated that recycling plastics is preferable to burning them in a WTE facility. Plastic recycling will not have a significant impact on landfill space and tonnage going to the Xcel plant, nor have an impact on dioxin production.

UPDATE ON HHM PROGRAM FOR 2010

Hank Koch reported that the grant for the Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) program was approved for approximately \$100,000. The Solid Waste Department will review this matter with administration, but will most likely accept the grant and maintain the services in 2010. However, a review of services and costs will be made during 2010 by the Finance Department to determine if alterations in the program should be made in 2011. The Personnel Department is rewriting the job description for the HHM program coordinator.

RESOLUTION RE: SALE OF LAKE NESHONOC DREDGE SAND

The Resolution was requested by Supervisor Ebert. It calls for a revenue split between the County and Lake District for the sale of dredge material, with the County receiving 60% of proceeds, and the Lake District receiving 40%. Jim Speropulos stated that the County does capital projects on the lake already. Discussion was held about the monies that were expended by all County taxpayers

for the dredge project, and having elected county representatives determine the use of the dredge sale proceeds for projects to benefit all County residents, rather than having the proceeds determined by the Lake District to benefit lakeshore residents. Speropulos stated that the County plans a conservation project on the lakeshore, which will probably require more funding than existing capital improvement monies will fund; therefore, the proceeds from the dredge sale will allow for completion of this project.

MOTION by Supervisor Johnson to reserve 30% of revenue in a designated fund for Lake Neshonoc improvements failed for lack of a second.

MOTION by Johnson/Benrud to approve the Resolution Re: Sale of Lake Neshonoc Dredge Sand. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ayes – Benrud, Spiker; Nays – Berns, Geary, Johnson, Pfaff. **Motion failed 4-2.** Schroeder excused.

RESOLUTION RE: ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER FLOOR REPAIR PHASE 2

The Resolution lists the four options that were proposed: 1) temporary shoring for full use; 2) full replacement for full use; 3) temporary shoring with steel beams for no use; 4) temporary shoring with wood beams and columns for no use. Jim Speropulos stated that the emergency that arose with the potential of asbestos becoming airborne has been resolved with the asbestos abatement now completed. The Resolution would authorize proceeding with Option 4 at a cost not to exceed the remaining balance of \$45,000 out of the \$115,000 that was appropriated. The temporary shoring will prevent further collapse until a decision is made on the future of the building. Supervisor Geary stated he was in favor of Option 2. Gary Ingvalson stated they would have to locate funds for a full repair, and it would require a 2/3 vote by the County Board. Speropulos stated they are maintaining the building, but not doing capital improvements to enhance the building. **MOTION** by Pfaff/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Administrative Center Floor Repair Phase 2. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ayes – Pfaff, Spiker, Benrud, Johnson; Nays – Geary, Berns. **Motion carried 4-2 .** Schroeder excused.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Solid waste guaranteed tonnage.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Benrud/Berns to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Approved, February 8, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder