

A Special Roads and Infrastructure Workshop of the Leslie City Council was held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at the Leslie Fire Station, 4281 Oak Street Leslie MI 49251, with Mayor Ron Schmit presiding.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Beyer, Fox, Motes, Shuster, Zamora, and Mayor Schmit.

ABSENT: Beegle (exc).

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Brian Reed, City Clerk Denae Davenport, Finance Director/Treasurer Cheri Neu, Public Works Director Martha Owen and Greg Minshall with Fitzgerald Henne.

Mayor Schmit led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM I - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Fox, seconded by Motes to approve the agenda. All yes. Motion carried.

ITEM II - PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.

Conduct a Roads & Infrastructure Workshop.

- I. Manager Reed first gave an overview of the workshop topic and explained the importance of the planning process with resources and revenues are shrinking.
- II. Department of Public Works Director Martha Owen provided a transportation overview, discussing Public Act 51 funds, where they come from and where they can be spent. Owen reported differences between funding in Michigan and other States. Owen discussed proposed legislative changes regarding gas taxes. Owen reported a dramatic increase in the construction costs over the last 15 - 20 years. Owen discussed the effects locally if the state loses federal road funding. Owen explained the state has discussed raising the gas tax. Reed added that this is the only tax increase that the Michigan Chamber of Commerce has supported. Owen noted that the Michigan Tourism Industry also supports the increase. Reed offered that this is not a long term fix. Reed explained that when times were good not enough money was put in to roads. Schmit asked if federal stimulus money would help repair the deteriorating roads. Minshall replied that most of the stimulus money has been put in to band aide work. The money for the most part has not been put into long term fixes.
- III. Greg Minshall with Fitzgerald Henne provided an Infrastructure overview. Minshall detailed what makes a road, explaining the components beneath the road and how they affect the surface. Minshall explained how the water, sanitary and storm sewer lines, the layers of sand gravel and asphalt complete the road surface. Minshall explained that what is happening beneath the road surface will determine the how to treat the surface when repair or replacement it needed. Minshall recommended that the streets and infrastructure should be evaluated to determine in which order to address street improvements, with limited funds it is not always the best practice to address the worst street first.
- IV. Martha Owen provided an overview of the strategy for Leslie streets. Owen explained the differences between crack sealing, slurry sealing and chip sealing. Owen provided a map of proposed street maintenance work for 2010 and discussed the work that was done in the city over the past 2 years. Owen showed video of the sewer systems explaining some of the problem areas that have been discovered. Owen detailed future plans for televising the sanitary and storm sewers. Owen spoke about issues with older water mains and water mains that dead end and suggested plans to address trouble spots.
- V. Reed spoke of the street program history and provided suggestions for how to proceed from this point. Reed acknowledged the difficult political atmosphere that surrounds these decisions. Shuster asked Minshall what he suggested. Minshall replied that he would suggest that council (or a committee appointed by the Mayor) set priorities, look at the condition of everything first and then develop a process. Reed would like to see council meld together what the public wants with what is responsible. Minshall suggested using a ranking process. Ideally you want to move from a reactionary approach to a planned approach. Fox asked Owen how long it will take to televise the entire city systems. Owen replied that she would have to budget the process over a 5 year period.

Motion to Adjourn.

Moved by Motes, seconded by Fox to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denae Davenport, Leslie City Clerk