

IMPROVEMENT HEARING
SUNRISE ISLAND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2010
5:30 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, October 11, 2010. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Jay Andolshek, Steve Roe, Rusty Taubert, John Moengen and Dean Swanson. Also present were City Administrator Tom Swenson, Clerk/Treasurer Jenny Max, Community Development Director Ken Anderson, Public Works Director Ted Strand, Police Chief Bob Hartman, City Attorney Mike Couri and City Engineers Dave Reese and Kent Rohr. There were approximately eight people in the audience. (Sign-in sheet attached)

Mayor Andolshek called the Public Hearing to order at 5:33 P.M. and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed Sunrise Island Bridge Replacement Project. Mayor Andolshek then turned the meeting over to City Engineer Dave Reese.

Dave Reese addressed the Council stating this is the second meeting for the proposed Sunrise Island Bridge Replacement Project. Mr. Reese gave a brief synopsis of what has transpired since the initial Public Hearing and also introduced WSN Engineer Kent Rohr who worked on the plan modifications. Based on the input received by the property owners on Sunrise Island there have been some aesthetic changes made to the design of the bridge including timber railings instead of concrete railings and adding some additional color to the bridge edges, pilings and pier caps. Mr. Rohr noted they were able to narrow the width of the bridge from 26 feet to 20 feet and by doing so the footprint will be essentially the same as the current bridge.

Mr. Reese next reviewed the updated cost estimates of the bridge which include the new design elements. The estimated participating cost that will be received from the State Bridge Bond Funds is \$450,836 and the non-participating local construction cost is \$57,664. This gives a total estimated cost for construction of \$508,500. In total, the local cost of the bridge including all construction, engineering, permit and administrative costs is approximately \$183,232 which is higher than the original estimate due to additional modifications to the bridge design layout. The overall project estimate total is \$634,068.

In terms of assessments, Mr. Reese noted the total estimated local cost of \$183,232 would be assessed at 50% to the fifteen property owners on Sunrise Island. The estimated equivalent lot assessment is \$6,108. Based on Minnesota State Statute 429 if the project moves forward, there will be another hearing for the proposed assessment to discuss final costs of the bridge after construction is complete and the City Council would then set an interest rate and period for which the assessment would run. Mr. Reese also pointed out that there is a 30 day window in which a property owner can pay the assessment in full and avoid having to pay any interest.

Marlow Shaffer of 35346 Maroda Drive was present and stated he feels the revisions to the bridge design were unnecessary and created higher costs which everyone has to pay for. Councilmember Moengen addressed this comment by stating that the overall construction cost of the bridge has decreased by narrowing the width of the bridge from 26 feet to 20 feet. Councilmember Moengen also noted that safety is a huge concern for the fire department and in an emergency situation, he doesn't want to have to think twice about whether or not a loaded fire truck can make it safely across the bridge. City Administrator Swenson stated it was at the request of the property owners to modify the aesthetics of the bridge design to give it the same feel as the natural surroundings. Mr. Rohr commented that the cost per square foot for a timber bridge is higher than a concrete bridge and it's important to make the best use of the State Bridge Bond Funds as possible.

Roger Lewis of 34061 Sunrise Island Road was present and asked if the assessment cost paid on his property taxes is tax deductible to which City Attorney Mike Couri stated that the assessment portion of a person's property taxes is non-deductible. Mr. Lewis also stated that he disagrees with Mr. Shaffer's comments on the aesthetics of the bridge and feels it's important to make the bridge fit in with the rest of the surroundings as much as possible.

City Administrator Tom Swenson noted that the City has made arrangements with Cheryl Hall to obtain a temporary easement and he will work with the City Attorney to execute those documents. Mr. Swenson also stated that he and Ted Strand met with Tom Bzoskie and they are still hoping to negotiate the temporary easement. There is an issue with a past permit from 2001 in which the County Recorder had incorrectly documented a private easement as a road right of way. Had the error not been made Mr. Bzoskie would have been allowed to build a garage back in 2001, and in reviewing the information it appears that Mr. Bzoskie has met the conditions to be granted the permit. Mr. Bzoskie confirmed this information and stated that if he is granted the permit to build a garage he will grant the temporary easement to the City. Mr. Couri noted that as this situation is unique it's at the Council's discretion to consider the permit as still active and grant the permit if the Council so chooses. MOTION 10PH1-01-10 WAS MADE BY JOHN MOENGEN AND SECONDED BY RUSTY TAUBERT TO GRANT TOM BZOSKIE THE PERMIT AS SUBMITTED IN 2001 EXCEPT FOR MOVING THE STRUCTURE FORWARD 16.5 FEET, TO CONSIDER THE PERMIT FEE PAID AND FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT THE TEMPORARY EASEMENT FOR MR. BZOSKIE TO SIGN IN RETURN. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL EYES.

Mr. Reese spoke of the approximate time line for the Sunrise Island Bridge replacement project. Mr. Reese noted the bidding phase would be either January or February 2011 with the construction phase sometime around May 2011 when road restrictions are lifted. The construction of the bridge is expected to take approximately two to three months and the assessment hearing would occur sometime in the fall of 2011 in order to certify the assessment to the County Auditor.

Joy Lotze of 33986 Sunrise Island Road was present and asked how the City can make the property owners pay for part of the bridge when the City never built the bridge to begin with. Mr. Swenson stated that the assessment policy was changed several years ago to include any replacement or major rehabilitation of a bridge. Mr. Reese added that many communities around the state generally assess the full replacement cost of major infrastructure items such as roads and bridges to the affected property owners, and not just the 50% that is being assessed for this project.

Mayor Andolshek noted that the City expects to have less on-going maintenance costs related to the bridge after it is fully replaced and Mr. Rohr confirmed that statement by noting the design life of the bridge has a 75 year minimum.

There being no further discussion regarding the Sunrise Island Bridge Replacement Project, MOTION 10PH1-02-10 WAS MADE BY JOHN MOENGEN AND SECONDED BY STEVE ROE TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:15 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Max
City Clerk/Treasurer

Deputy Clerk/Minutes/10-11-10 Bridge Hearing.doc