

EAST BETHEL ROAD COMMISSION MEETING

December 8, 2015

The East Bethel Road Commission met at 6:30 pm at the East Bethel City Hall for the monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Thunberg Kathy Paavola Lori Pierson-Kolodzienski
 Jeff Jensen Dennis Murphy Daniel Nowack

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Roger Virta

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Voss, Mayor
 Tom Ronning, City Council Member
 Tim Harrington, City Council Member
 Brian Mundle, City Council Member
 Jack Davis, City Administrator
 Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager

Adopt **Ms. Pierson-Kolodzienski moved and Ms. Paavola seconded to adopt
Agenda the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.**

Presentation from MnDOT and FHWA on Viking Blvd /TH65 Intersection Representatives from Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) presented and discussed possible improvements to the Viking Blvd/TH65 intersection. The need for improvements at this intersection is evident during rush hours and the associated delays required to clear the intersection. Currently, there are only three main roads going east to west from 35W to Hwy 169 – Interstate 694, Hwy 95, and Viking Blvd. With the planned future development in this area, this intersection will receive significantly more traffic movement.

One plan discussed was the “Superstreet” or “Reduced Conflict Intersection” design. Representatives presented and reviewed how this type of intersection works and how it allows for better traffic performance, along with safety benefits. This intersection design used in both North Carolina and San Antonio may fit the intersection needs at Viking Blvd./TH65, 181st/TH65, and 187th/TH65. A video of a North Carolina site and slides were shown. This type of intersection can either be unsignalized or signalized. Cost for unsignalized would be approximately \$1 million, with an additional cost for signalized. The representatives shared that funding resources (possibly 80/20) are available to help with costs whether it is a signalized or unsignalized intersection. If another city were to install the first signalized intersection before the City of East Bethel, Federal early deployment money

would go to that city. However, there are still other funding options available.

Based on the traffic flow through the Viking Blvd./TH65 intersection, a signalized intersection is recommended. Early evaluations indicate two (2) right turn lanes onto TH65, along with two (2) middle lanes for U-turn use may be best. A yellow arrow for right turns could be used during off peak times at this location. 181st and 187th are also candidates for this type of intersection. Superstreets can be installed a quarter mile apart. One large street could be installed at once, but that is not suggested.

If emergency vehicles need quicker access going east and west, an emergency vehicle only cross road could be included; other cities have included such roads. There was discussion on how this type of intersection will impact trucks and the need for acceleration onto TH65. Trucks entering off of 187th could benefit from a signalized intersection at Viking Blvd., due to spaced out pods of vehicle. Acceleration lanes were not encouraged.

Sheila Kauppi, MnDOT North Metro Engineer, stated public outreach and involvement from Bunker Blvd. north on the TH65 corridor will be necessary. She believes that the superstreet will sell itself once it is installed. At this time a study is still underway, however, if there is a true interest in the project, the next step would be cost estimating.

Approve Oct. 13, 2015 Mtg. Minutes **Ms. Paavola moved and Mr. Murphy seconded to approve the October 13, 2015 minutes with one correction on Page 1, change “Ms. Jensen to Mr.”. Motion carried.**

Roads Financial Information Mr. Ayshford reported that due to the warm start to the winter season, overtime has been down and that there is no need to purchase more road salt at this time; finances should be good for the remainder of 2015.

Bonde Private Road Evon Brownlee and Allan Bonde are requesting that their private driveway be classified as a private road in order to meet City Ordinance requirements to secure building permits. Because this is a shared driveway, it does not meet the City resolution of no building permits being issued on shared driveways. One property owner wants to sell 20 acres that will have a house built on it.

There is a DNR accepted easement of 66 ft., for which the DNR has no upkeep requirements. The property owners maintain the driveway themselves. If this is approved as a private road, the property owners will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the road; the City would

not be responsible. Will there be a future issue with right of way? Not with the 66 ft. easement in place. If any property on the private road was to be developed in the future, all development planning steps will need to be taken. City staff does not want to set a precedence for private roads, however, this driveway has acted as a private road since the early 70s.

If the City were to consider the acceptance of the Bonde property, it is recommended through a Resolution by the City Council acknowledging the private road with the following conditions:

1. Provide the City with the names and addresses of all of the respective property owners and lien holders, including the DNR along with consent forms for the private drive establishment and location.
2. Legal description that describes the entire road and right of way proposed as a private drive.
3. Maintenance agreement draft addressing all road maintenance and snow removal responsibilities, payments and organizational framework for collection.
4. Resolution will stipulate that if the property owners ever want the City to take over the driveway it will need to be brought up to City standards.
5. Minimum road requirements to meet emergency vehicle requirements as deemed needed and necessary by the Fire Department Chief, including additional Class 5 or other acceptable material to improve the road surface and condition.

Mr. Jensen moved and Mr. Murphy seconded to recommend approval of the Bonde private road request with the stipulation that the five (5) above conditions be met, and that Condition #5 be revised to include the Fire Department Chief's approval of access on the private road. Motion carried.

Council
Report and
Other
Business

Mr. Ronning presented the recent tax levy information and a document showing how the City of East Bethel compares to other Anoka County cities.

The City Council passed a general levy at the last council meeting for \$4,109,300.00 with four (4) bonds: Sewer bond for \$180,000, 2013A Public Safety for \$128,000, 2015A for \$504,000, and 2014A for \$330,000. Total levy is \$5,251,300 at 1.5%.

The City Council approved an EDA levy for \$123,022 with a budget of the same.

Terry Allen, a city employee, was recognized by Resolution for his actions by helping an accident victim.

City staff revised Ordinance Chapter 34 Floods with regard to flood plains.

City Council passed an administrative subdivision request by Darrell Pearson to split 35.33 acres into two lots per Chapter 66, Article V of the City of East Bethel code.

Fee schedule for adoption came up for review.

City staff purchased a generator for approximately \$47,000 to use as back up during power outages for City Hall.

The City Council will try harder to acknowledge the actions and work of all commissioners.

In follow-up to previous minutes, Mr. Jensen voiced concerns and asked that the City Council delay road change decisions until safety issues are reviewed.

Roger Virta will be stepping down as a commissioner so there will be an opening on the Road Commission. Mr. Jensen's term expires in January.

Mr. Jensen and Ms. Paavola stated frustration with the City Council for not always listening to or leaning toward City staff direction. Staff was hired for their expertise in specific jobs/areas and in turn give good recommendations. "The Council needs to listen to staff."

Ms. Paavola stated Lincoln, Laurel, and Longfellow are great roads now and that the curves are much smoother.

Adjourn

Ms. Paavola moved and Ms. Pierson-Kolodzienski seconded to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gessner
Recording Secretary
12/11/15