

A funding application for 2020-21 is due May 2016.

Mr. Nowack moved and Ms. Paavola seconded to recommend to City Council approval for MnDOT to proceed with further study and data on the superstreet design to include 181st through Sims Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Voss asked what MnDOT is looking for from the City of East Bethel and how does East Bethel's input affect MnDOT's decision? Ms. Kauppi said MnDOT is looking for the City's consent and acceptance of the project, and that the City help MnDOT connect with businesses, residents, communities for outreach. At present East Bethel is helping with resources of where to gather information.

Gravel Road Discussion

The City of East Bethel currently has 31 gravel roads totaling over 15 miles that are evenly distributed over the 48 square miles of the city. Currently, the cost to blacktop a road is assessed to the benefiting properties and is justified because of the property value increase. The cost of a lot on a blacktopped road is higher due to the increased building costs incurred by the developer to build the road, which are also reflected in subsequent home values. The blacktopping procedure can be initiated by petition from the benefiting properties or the City Council can initiate a road upgrade.

After the initial road construction costs are factored out, gravel roads and blacktop roads have annual maintenance costs that are fairly similar, however, the number of hours spent maintaining the roads is significantly higher for gravel roads. Also, gravel roads are highly affected by seasonal moisture and often times are in conditions well below asphalt road surfaces.

Staff asked the commissioners to review the current blacktopping policy to see if it still meets the city's goals or if a policy to reduce the number of gravel roads is more beneficial to the city.

Most cities' road policies are similar to East Bethel's. In the past, the City has helped with costs by covering the cost for base materials, culvert work, and drainage work with owners paying for the actual asphalt surface. Most roads would be "shape and pave" with no curbs or gutters.

Consensus of Commission was that there is no need for change to the East Bethel Gravel Road Policy.

Council Report and Other Business

Mr. Thunberg acknowledged Mr. Jensen's many years of service as a Road Commission member and thanked him for his valuable knowledge and many hours of dedication.

Mr. Thunberg acknowledged Mr. Virta's end of term and expressed his gratitude for Mr. Virta's service.

Ron Koller was introduced as the newly appointed Council liaison to the Road Commission.

Mr. Koller reported that the Council did the normal updating for the new year. Council did the pay estimate #4 for the 185th Ave, Laurel Road, and Lincoln Drive street reconstruction project, and did the pay estimate #3 for the 2015 street overlay projects.

Verizon tower is out for bid.

The City will move forward with the installation of a new road running north and south from 181st to Viking Blvd. when all property acquisitions are completed.

Adjourn

Ms. Pierson-Kolodzienski moved and Mr. Jensen seconded to adjourn at 7:54 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gessner
Recording Secretary
1/17/16