

**EAST BETHEL ROAD COMMISSION MEETING**  
**February 12, 2013**

The East Bethel Road Commission met on February 12, 2013 at 6:30 P.M at the East Bethel City Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Virta Deny Murphy Al Thunberg Kathy Paavola  
Lori Pierson-Kolodzienski Jeff Jensen Tim Harrington

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager  
Bob DeRoche, City Council Member

**Oath of Office** I, Roger Virta, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties as a member of the City of East Bethel Road Commission in the County of Anoka and the State of Minnesota, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

I, Jeff Jensen, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties as a member of the City of East Bethel Road Commission in the County of Anoka and the State of Minnesota, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

I, Tim Harrington, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties as a member of the City of East Bethel Road Commission in the County of Anoka and the State of Minnesota, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

**Election of Chairperson and Co-Chairperson** Virta stated we have followed a tradition in the past of a rotating chairperson based on interest. By being chairperson you get a different perspective. You have to be more focused on organizational items. Thunberg has been chair. Jensen has been chair a couple of times. Virta has been chairperson once. Is there interest among the members in becoming chairperson? Murphy said no. Pierson-Kolodzienski said no. Virta said he would do it another year. There is something to be said in having some continuity, but he is ambivalent about it. He wants to make sure that everyone has an opportunity.

**Thunberg nominated Virta for chairperson and Jensen for Co-chairperson. Pierson-Kolodzienski seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

Virta welcomed Harrington to the Roads Commission. He thinks Harrington will enjoy it and it will offer him a different perspective on the City.

Ayshford thanked Jensen, Virta and Harrington for coming back and helping out on the Commission. We appreciate your dedication to the Road Commission.

**Adopt Agenda** **Pierson-Kolodzienski motioned to adopt the agenda as submitted. Jensen seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

**Approve – January 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes** **Paavola motioned to approve the January 8, 2013 minutes. Jensen seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

Virta stated the format changed and the minutes seemed to make some more sense. It might be because we are in the council chambers now and the process is more formal. At the table in the back conference room where we use to meet there was a lot more discussion, but was probably harder to record. He thinks the minutes have been a lot clearer. DeRoche said it might be the minute taker. He agreed the minutes seem to make more sense. Paavola said we don't have all our backs to the minute taker, which would make the minutes clearer. Virta thinks it does too.

**Roads  
Financial  
Information**

Ayshford said the financial information only represents 29 days of this year. We have had a few weekend storms where we have had some overtime. We have used a lot of fuel and salt this past week and a half, but it is nothing too out of the ordinary. Nothing has occurred the capitol budget so far this year. We did receive \$30,000 more than we anticipated for MSA funds this year. \$20,000 is for construction and \$10,000 for maintenance. These funds come from the State of MN for the MSA budget.

Jensen asked what the City is looking for in 2013 for equipment. Ayshford said a replacement plow truck. We have a 97 Ford that has broken down in each of the last four storms. That plow actually plows down by the Coon Lake Beach area. Currently we are waiting for the State bids to come out. We also have replacement tractor that we need this year. In addition to those two, we are looking at purchasing a mini-excavator for storm water work. It is a tracked machine that has an arm for digging. They have rubber tracks that can get in to tight areas and across swampy areas. We demoed a couple last fall and replaced a couple storm water pipes on our streets. If we get this, it would save the City money by allowing staff to do repair work on culvers and other storm water projects.

The last couple years we have been using five plow trucks to do the streets. It increases our response time. We are still a little behind where he would like to be. Jensen asked if it the plow truck would be Freightliner. Ayshford said we tested a Freightliner and an International. All of our trucks are Freightliners. If we stayed with a Freightliner we would be able to carry parts that would fit all the trucks such as oil and fuel filters.

**2013 TH 65  
Projects**

On January 31, 2013, members of the North TH 65 Corridor Coalition met at East Bethel City Hall to discuss construction projects being planned for the 2013 construction season. The purpose of these regular meetings is to allow discussion and the sharing of information between the stakeholders and community officials involved with transportation decisions along the TH65 corridor in the northern metro area.

Attachment 7.1 is a summary of those projects and includes the proposed Johnson St frontage road in East Bethel. Another project with implications for East Bethel residents and visitors will be the lengthening of the left turn lanes on TH 65 at Viking Blvd by an additional 200 feet. This project is being planned for late summer (after Labor day), early fall and will require closing Viking Blvd for a 48-hour period to facilitate the replacement of a culvert.

This group gets together a couple times a year. The representatives are from cities from along Hwy 65 from Ham Lake to Mora. The County Commissioners, city representatives and MnDOT Officials attend the meeting. Jack Davis is our representative.

Virta thinks this is a good piece of information. So they will be closing Viking Boulevard for 48 hours to do the work. Ayshford said yes they would be replacing a culvert. He said when they did the white topping they stopped short of the intersection because they knew they were going to have to come in and replace the culvert.

Ayshford said all the mucking came within a couple feet of their test drills. Some of the contractors were using some of our City streets as a short cut for hauling the soil. We caught that, and asked them to use the official detour route. He also confirmed that there is a limit on the bridge on the detour, but the weight restriction is higher than the amount the trucks are hauling. Virta wanted to know if they brought in the sand. Ayshford said yes, some of it has been brought in from Elk River.

Ayshford also advised the County has decided to forego the cul-de-sac at Madison Street because they weren't able to reach an agreement with property owners on either side. Virta said they aren't going to close it. Ayshford said no, they would be leaving it open. Virta said he thought it was a safety issue. The County needed to purchase easements, and they would have to change the address on one of the properties. Virta said that is interesting. That whole issue with the radius of the cul-de-sac is now a mute point now. He hopes we don't have any safety issues because of that. He asked how that works. Do they get paid for the land? Ayshford said the County purchases right-of-way from the property owners. Virta said if you can't come to a mutual agreement, then condemnation is the next possible option. Ayshford said it is a long process. Jensen said you could dead end a road. DeRoche said you would still have to take some of their property. Ayshford said the biggest problem there is about a ¼ of a mile there is no way to turn around down there. For our snowplowing it would also be a nightmare and emergency vehicles, school buses and garbage trucks would not be able to get turned around. If safety is an issue, Jackson will be a safer and it might make more sense to come into the neighborhood that way.

### **Johnson Street Service Road Update**

The City of East Bethel was awarded Municipal Agreement Funds for median and access closure at 219<sup>th</sup> Ave and TH 65 and the extension of the Johnson St frontage road from 215<sup>th</sup> Ave to County Road 74. The City Engineer has prepared the preliminary construction documents and the project is scheduled to be bid this spring and completed in 2013.

The estimated project cost was \$1,590,968. The City would be responsible for an estimated \$888,968 and MnDot would be responsible for an estimated \$702,000. The City has budgeted the \$888,968 as part of the 2013 Municipal State Aid Fund.

Ayshford stated there is a map showing the final location. We are still working on right of way access from the property owner and it sounds like we are moving forward. We also met with the utility companies and look in good shape with developable land for someone.

Thunberg asked if this area is being farmed. Ayshford said yes, it is, but the road could help them sell their property to a developer in the future.

Virta asked him to refresh his memory on the force main. Ayshford said the project rebid opening was today. The original bids came back in too expensive. The original plan came up Hwy 65 and crossed over Hwy 65 a couple times up to 229<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The City's portion would go north from there. The expensive part was crossing Hwy 65 two times. We are waiting to hear back on the new bids. Developers could potentially hook up to it. Virta said that is why he asked about that extension. Could they hook up? Ayshford said the area could be serviced by sewer but not by water. With restaurants, and such, their septic tank costs are phenomenal, this could be an attractive option. Murphy asked if it was a done deal. Ayshford said the construction plans are 70% complete we are waiting on one property owner. We are hoping to have the project completed in 2013.

Thunberg said this is what we were looking at doing on the east side. Ayshford said yes, but we did a total new application on the west side. Thunberg said this is one that ended up going through without having to go through our committee. Ayshford said the road commission did review it and the committee's recommendation was to spend the money down in the sewer district. Thunberg said we didn't really agree with this. He is just concerned that this will be a road like on the east side of Hwy 65 south of Sims. Pierson-Kolodzenski said a Mark someone was going to put a driving range down on that road, but that never went any further. Thunberg said he hopes it gets something going on the west side of Hwy 65 at 221<sup>st</sup> Avenue. All of those properties are for sale. Ayshford said this road is part of our long-range plan and the City was reluctant to decline two grants that would help fund these projects. Ayshford said he could see both sides of the issue. This is funded out of the MSA funds from the State of MN and not the City's general fund. Virta said maybe it would open something up to development in that area.

Ayshford said the Jackson Street project is advanced funded with MSA funds. There are also a few roads being done in the Coon Lake Beach Area using the MSA funds in 2013. The State wants us to use the funds. Murphy said do we lose the funds. Ayshford said, no, but we can borrow up to five years in advance on it and we do not lose it. In 2014, we can borrow out to 2019 etc. With our allocation going up, we are in good shape, and this year we will get about \$559,000. Thunberg said the person we are still working with to get access, looks like they are still working toward a negotiation. Ayshford said yes. Thunberg asked if there would there be turn lanes on 221<sup>st</sup> in both directions. Ayshford said a right turn lane is being proposed. Thunberg would like a bypass lane done there. Virta said it raises some interesting development possibilities along there. Even though we didn't vote for it, it might work out. We might have an opportunity to get some value out of it.

**Council  
Report and  
Other  
Business**

DeRoche said he does remember when the street discussion came up. He knows that the Road Commission put in a lot of time and thought into it. The timing thing was we couldn't get the easements to start the project completed and there was still concern for safety at Hwy 65 and 221<sup>st</sup> and then the Administrator and the City Engineer decided to put the application in. Shortly after that was when we found out the signal was going in. He had argued to put the money down in the sewer and water district. His thinking is the roads in the sewer water district were going to be developer driven.

The will hopefully be a force main going up to Castle Tower, to replace the City's waste water treatment system. He believes if a lift station is put in at 221<sup>st</sup> and Hwy 65, the system will be built for four corners of the intersection. A lift station will cost \$75,000 plus. Will it develop? Maybe, sometime, but there is no water up in there. Would a developer dig their own well? As a City we aren't in any position to put in a well. There are two wells at Castle Towers. We have two wells at Hwy 65 and County Road 22.

Jack and DeRoche went on a little tour of the City and looked at stuff. When Anoka County Commissioners were here today, Doug Fischer said there was a little more muck in there (County Road 22/Hwy 65 project) than they thought. There were some issues with getting the utilities moved. But Met Council got involved and told them to move them or they would and bill them, they did move them.

The City did a JPA with East Bethel Properties LLC to put in a turn lane to their property on the northwest corner of Hwy 65 and County Road 22. This is at no cost to the City. Thunberg asked if it would be into the northwest corner. Ayshford said yes.

The plan for County Road 22 is concrete overlay, they will go 1,000 feet up, and then they will be a solid face on the road. He learned this from the County engineer today. It is quite the project.

City Council has a meeting tomorrow night with Martha Weaver from the County. There is a retreat for this weekend. He isn't going to say much about that. He called around to other cities, how they work, and what they do. He said it is a come together meeting. Staff discusses what they think the direction of the City should be, and Council discusses. It will be at Cedar Creek. It is open to the public. DeRoche doesn't plan to attend.

DeRoche appreciates people who put their time on these commissions. He doesn't think the general public understands how much time is put in to these. There is no way the Council can know everything about everything. To have people give up their time, and volunteer, means a lot. He had some discussions with Anoka County Commissioners today.

Jensen said as an advisory committee regardless, the thing at the time, regarding the road, we applied for a grant and hate to throw away the money. Spending the money we didn't need, is also throwing money away. If we are going to be spending any money, we are still kicking in money and it is still coming in from somewhere. Not spending it in an area where we are trying to develop isn't smart. It would be one more thing to help entice a business to come in. He has a hard time seeing this coming in. No one will be putting in lift stations, unless they are putting a big box store. He was hoping there is some way this can be brought up again to Council.

DeRoche said he would bring it up again. The problem when this issue came up, we never had five people at the Council meetings. A couple Council members just chose not to show up. He would have preferred to hold off until the new Council came in. This City belongs to the residents not the City Council. He thinks sometimes people thoughts get lost. We need to focus on the area down there. It is a mile and half. Would it be nice if we could get someone to hook up to the force main at Sims Road? That would be nice. People compare us to other cities, and we aren't the same, we don't have the same cash flow. We have to be aware of what the Commissions are recommending. At the Council

there isn't as much discussion.

Ayshford said he wanted to remind everyone that the grant would not have worked down in that area. In order to qualify for this, you would have to have an access closure. Jensen said we started on the east side for safety issues. The only use is for development. DeRoche said grant money is not free. It comes from taxpayer dollars.

DeRoche said Aggressive Hydraulics is really coming along. Pierson-Kolodzienski said the floors are getting started this week the way it looks. DeRoche said it looks really nice.

DeRoche said they Highway Department was very surprised on how much waters is on that corner, at County Road 22 and Hwy 65. Virta said they should come around after we have a 100-year thunderstorm. DeRoche said everyone is working together on that project.

Thunberg asked if anything has been announced for what will be on the northwest corner. DeRoche said he has been hearing inklings. Ayshford said nothing has been announced.

Ayshford said there will be two turn lanes accessing that property, there will be a right in and right out halfway down, and there will be a full turn lane at the western edge.

There are two new Council members. They have been through the leadership conference at the League of Minnesota Cities. Moegerle and DeRoche went to the experienced section of the conference.

Anyone hear any rumors. He said the Park Commission is meeting tomorrow night at 7:30. The special meeting tomorrow night starts at 5:00 p.m. Virta said there is a special meeting at the 5:00 p.m. for the City Council. DeRoche said it is Martha Weaver from Anoka County coming to talk to us. He doesn't know what she is coming to talk about. We shall see. Virta asked if it would be broadcast on the web? Ayshford said he wasn't sure.

**Adjourn**      **Jensen motioned for adjournment. Pierson-Kolodzienski; all in favor motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Anderson  
Recording Secretary