



KITTITAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Cook, Director

STUDY SESSION MINUTES July 24, 2017

THOSE PRESENT: Paul Jewell, Laura Osiadacz (BOCC); Mark Cook, Candie Leader, Luke Huck (DPW); Clay Myers (SO)

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE HUNTZINGER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

Luke stated that this is the first project that Public Works has done 100% in house for design, survey and advertisement. Two bids were received with one close to the Engineer's estimate and one that was 5% lower than the Engineer's estimate, which was Petersen Brothers, Inc. That is the construction company that recently did the guardrail work on Westside Road. He presented the resolution for consideration. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Commissioner Jewell called for a motion. Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve the Resolution to Award the Huntzinger Road Safety Improvements Project as presented. Commissioner Jewell seconded the motion and Resolution 2017-116 was approved as presented.

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND A NOTICE OF CALL FOR SEALED BIDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY WAY BRIDGE PROJECT:

Luke reported that early in 2017 there was a resolution that enabled Public Works to fund the shortfall of approximately \$445,000 for the Dolarway Roundabout – WSDOT project. As a result of that resolution there was a section in there that stipulated that the bridge repairs for the University Way Bridge would be performed prior to the annexation and turning over the roadway to the City of Ellensburg. As a result, Public Works has advanced that project from the 2018 construction season to the 2017 construction season. Staff met with faculty from Central Washington University to discuss closure timelines. A closure date of September 18th – October 2nd was agreed upon which allows them to get through move in for students. Staff is also working to get letters out to local business owners that have seen impacts from the roundabout project. Luke stated that a press release will go out after Labor Day to inform the public of the closure. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Commissioner Jewell called for a motion. Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve the Resolution and a Notice of Call for Sealed Bids for the University Way Bridge Project as presented. Commissioner Jewell seconded the motion and Resolution 2017-117 was approved as presented.

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AWARD ADDITIONAL DISTRESSED COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS FOR THE CLE ELUM DOWNTOWN BATHROOMS RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00:

Mark gave background on the Public Facilities fund and the intent of the funds for projects. He continued that last week he attended the Conference of Government (COG) meeting and discussion was had on the applications and score sheets. It was brought to staff's attention that in an absence of consultation with Public Works by the COG this award occurred last year with no Board of County Commissioner action taken. Staff is now presenting the resolution for consideration and approval. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Commissioner Jewell called for a motion. Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve the Resolution to Award an Additional \$25,000 Distressed County Sales and Use Tax Funds to the City of Cle Elum for Emergency Repairs for the Cle Elum Downtown Bathrooms Restoration Project as Recommended by the Conference of Governments as presented. Commissioner Jewell seconded the motion and Resolution 2017-118 was approved as presented.

LUND LANE ROAD IMPROVEMENT DISCUSSION:

Mark stated that Lund Lane is a private road that a local developer is utilizing to access a planned unit development that was approved by the Board of County Commissioners known as Big Creek. He continued that discussions were held in 2016 and early 2017. The key point is that the private road segment has to be improved to a public standard. The issue in this case is that the road would likely remain private even though it will be improved to a public standard because it's held by at least four (4) easement owners. These easement owners would have to agree to dedicate the road to the county. Staff will reach out to the community this week and have a conversation about the private road status. Mark added that the fear of the residents living on Lund Lane would be an increase in speed by the traveling public once the roadway is widened. He added that the opportunity exists, in conversation with the developer, to do some realignment of the existing road. There is a structure with a pump control feature in the easement that would be at risk if the widening project were to happen. Mark continued that the next piece that is attached to that is the existing wooden bridge structure across the upper part of the canal. The bridge is a Bureau of Reclamation bridge and it is going to have to be removed with a new public bridge created by order of the Board of County Commissioners. Mark stated

that staff has made application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and will likely hear from them shortly with a notice to proceed. The construction and demolition of the existing bridge is the burden of the developer. Although staff will be working with the developer to make sure the proper structure is placed. Knowing that the bridge is moving forward it's a good time to start engaging the community on the impacts of keeping the road private. The concern from Public Works has been, and continues to be is essentially a public road serving sixty (60) residents of the approved Planned Unit Development there is some thought they could close the road. In which case we would not have public access that we were seeking with the bridge and other public road construction. Mark added that there is some advantage to see if that section can come into the road network for public dedication. There are two paths we can go down. We can either lobby and reach consensus from the easement owners to petition for the road to be established on network, in which case we would be providing snow removal and ongoing maintenance on the roadway and the other option is condemnation by the Board of County Commissioners. Staff is committed to having conversations this week about this issue with the easement owners. Discussion was held regarding the public road standard and how the roadway is to be built. Commissioner Jewell recapped the conversation with questions on how the easement owners can close the roadway. Mark replied that the County does not have any right of way of the private road. Further discussion was held. Commissioner Jewell added that closing that road is not an acceptable alternative and staff needs to find a way to prevent that from happening. Commissioner Osiadacz added that staff will be contacting landowners that are adjacent to Lund Lane to discuss what the roadway will look like. She has received several emails with concerns about speeds and what will occur as the improvements are made. One of her goals is to work with the developer and meeting with the property owners and find ourselves in a position where everyone is agreeable to the outcome. Commissioner Jewell asked to discuss the improvements because he feels this is another piece to the issue. Discussion was held regarding the roadway improvements and the traveling public.

Board Direction:

No Direction.

KITTITAS COUNTY ROAD STANDARDS – TASK ORDER WITH KPG:

Mark stated that staff has been looking at the road standards. The last update that was minimal was in 2015. Staff is anxious to update the current road standards to be more user friendly and have been having several discussions with one of our consultants KPG. Staff has seen other county standards and they far exceed what our road standards are currently. Staff would like to make a draft run at updating these standards in 2017 with a presentation to the Board in 2018 after outreach to the public and stakeholders. Commissioner Jewell commented that the last time the road standards had a broad update was as far back as 2007-2008. Mark replied that it was in 2005. Commissioner Jewell added that he is favor of an update; however, he is concerned about staff doing a full draft without a stakeholder group being involved in the process. Mark commented that staff would like to come back at another study session with a proposal for what the stakeholder group would look like and would prefer to have a document for the stakeholder group to review and get some body of work together for them. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Begin draft and involve stakeholders in updates.

LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY DISCUSSION FOR NELSON SIDING ROAD:

Mark stated that several weeks back staff briefed the Board on several issues along Nelson Siding Road due to closures and construction on I-90. Mark had a chance to look at statutes where the Public Health Officer can close the roadway due to the public urination and other health concerns. He added that the Board has the ability to temporarily close the road to all class of vehicles due to the increase of traffic on a regular basis. If this path of road closure was to be gone down the logistics of who would close the road and who would manage the closure. When the speed limit was lowered on the road this caused an extra burden on law enforcement to enforce the change. The speed lowering did not help with the amount of traffic volume. Mark contacted the regional engineer from South Central Region of Washington State Department of Transportation as the Board requested to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue and he has not received a response. Commissioner Jewell indicated to wait another week and then follow up with another phone call. Commissioner Osiadacz spoke to Undersheriff Myers being present and he spoke to the issue and presented a handout showing the calls and infractions in the Upper County area from May 1, 2017 to July 23, 2017. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Follow up with Washington State Department of Transportation to get the meeting scheduled.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CARROLL ROAD UPDATE:

Mark stated that staff met with the Board several weeks back regarding the traffic on Carroll Road. After that meeting staff deployed traffic counters to track the speeds and traffic volumes. When the results of that study came back staff wasn't satisfied with the results due to the placement of the counters. They were redeployed in a different area of the roadway and have been out for week and will remain out for at least another week. Once this data is collected and compiled Mark stated he will bring those results back to the Board for discussion.

HYAK DRIVE UPDATE:

Mark presented that in another response to speeding conditions on Hyak Drive, staff did a speed study last year that confirmed speeding on the roadway. Staff looked at various strategies and the area is poor for the placement of speed signs that are interactive because of the snowfall and the technology of those signs. Temporary traffic calming devices cannot be deployed due to snow removal efforts. Staff looked to national guidance that reported some good response to the perception of narrowing the roadway with striping markings. The new markings were signed and created ten foot lanes from thirteen foot lanes. Unfortunately, this did not help with the speed reduction and the new speed data confirms that. Crews will go and remove the markings with fog seal within the next couple of days. The next plan is to deploy some permanent rumble strips. Discussion was held.



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