

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

ATTENDEES

Bill Pritchard, Chair

John Barnes

Dave Eason

Andy Freimuth

Roy Gordon

Barry Hager

Sue Hill

Arthur Schatzkin

Don Sherk

Al Lang, Council Liaison

Warren Rizzi, Town Staff

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Council Agenda items for December 9 were reviewed

1. Street Lighting Evaluation and Improvements Update.

Although the analysis is incomplete there is sufficient information to allow initial consideration of the potential options for the Town.

2. Phase 2 Storm Sewer Improvements.

Town and Montgomery County representatives met to discuss the two phases of the project. While the project is in the preliminary County budget, there likely will not be funds available to proceed. County representatives suggested that if the Town were to contribute 25-50% of the project costs, that the County may be more willing to fund the balance of the cost of the project. Members of the PSC requested copies of the Phase diagrams for the project.

Updates

Street Lighting Evaluation and Improvements Update

The presentation to the Council was reviewed with discussion of the costs of the options; potential for more uniform lighting across the Town; the choice among High Pressure Sodium (HPS), induction and LED lighting; lighting requirements on border streets and the State Highway Administration's requirement for use of HPS lighting; and, remaining steps. Regardless of Town action on the management of the lights themselves, the PSC is concerned about improperly maintained trees reducing or completely blocking light from existing lights as well as the planting of new trees that will interfere with street lighting as they mature.

The PSC unanimously approved a motion that the Town (1) trim trees in accordance with the recommendations provided by the lighting consultant in order to reduce interference with street lighting by tree foliage; (2) consider potential interference with street lighting when planning new trees in the right-of-way; and, (3) work to effect prompt repair of malfunctioning street lights. The PSC requests

that the Town Council begin consideration of the report on Street Light Evaluation and Improvements as the PSC develops specific recommendations regarding the street lighting.

Traffic

Informational meetings have been held with two traffic consultants with two additional such meetings planned. These discussions are helpful in considering the scope of work to be included in the planned Request for Proposals for comprehensive study of Town traffic and pedestrian safety.

Security

The Security subcommittee met with John D'Albora on means of assessing and planning for the Town's security needs. A review of the larger scale perspective of Town security is required to determine the Town's needs. Such a review should include the state of security issues in adjacent areas. The subcommittee has identified several primary roles that Town police officer would fill.

Additional topics

Crosswalks

The issue of the decorative crosswalks was revisited. The PSC approved the following motion:

The PSC unanimously recommends that white stripes be added along the outside edges of the Town's decorative crosswalks so that these crosswalks are clearly identifiable as pedestrian crosswalks. These white stripes should comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.

Traffic around CCES

Traffic issues around CCES were discussed as well as a request from William Stapleton, Bethesda Chevy Chase Transportation Cluster Manager, that certain streets with restricted entry be modified to allow buses during those times. The Town will discuss the request further with Mr. Stapleton.

Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were approved

Committee Membership

The Chair informed the PSC that Terry Galvin would be leaving the Committee.

Next meeting – Tuesday, January 12, 2010

9:05pm -- Meeting adjourned