

CITY OF STEVENS POINT

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

May 13, 2024 - 6:15 PM

Community Room

933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

MINUTES

Roll Call

PRESENT Chairperson Mayor Wiza, Chris Tiffany, Ald. Keymer, Ald. Kneebone, Ald. Shuda, Ald. Buse and Ald. Morrow.

OTHERS PRESENT **Directors:** Scott Beduhn - Public Works, Dan Kremer - Parks and Recreation.
City Staff: Attorney Beveridge, Police Chief Robert Kussow, C/T Corey Ladick.
Alderpersons: Marc Christianson - District 1, Jacqui Guthrie - District 2, Lara Broderick - District 4, Allison Birr - District 5, Dale Steinmetz - District 6, Sam Lang - District 9.
Others Present: Dave and Sandy Medin - 2101 West River Drive, Jackie Schimke - 440 West Trillium Court, Chris Scott - 3340 Whiting Avenue, Jessica Sherman and Jeff Lodzinski - 2048 West Zinda Drive, John Bachman and Theresa Collins - 417 West Maple Ridge Road, Lisa Zdroik - 7082 10th Street, Eric and Erin Olson - 2025 West River Drive, Gilbert Kvatek - 416 West Pleasant Street, Trevor Roark - 601 Washington Avenue.

Informational

1. Director's Report

Ald. Shuda **moved**, Ald. Morrow **seconded**, to approve the Director's Report and place it on file.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: **All**
Nays: **None**; Motion **Carried**

Discussion and Possible Action

2. Discussion on ideas for possible actions to be taken on West River Drive.

Director Beduhn reported that we are in the process of collecting data along the entire corridor. From the data collected so far, 95-97% of the people are speeding and speeds are pretty consistent throughout the length of the corridor. He explained that in looking into the statutory speed limits, 35 mph is the normal speed when the space between driveways and houses is greater than 200 feet, which is the case on the southern half past the houses to CTH HH. This means that people are driving what they feel is the normal speed they would expect to be driving.

Director Beduhn said the things we are looking into is grant money in order to be able to move along faster with what we decide to do. He presented things that have been suggested are painting lines and/or the speed limit on the pavement, speed boards so people realize how fast they are going, moving the white fog lines, and adding rumble strips along the outer edge. He pointed out one thing we need to be cognitive of in that area is that it is considered wetland and located within the flood plain, which means any extensive work would need to go through the Department of Natural Resources.

Police Chief Kussow stated that he does have extra patrol in that area right now. The problem with that is, during the times of the day people are speeding out there, happens to be the same times of the day people are speeding everywhere else, and they can't be everywhere all the time. He added that right now they are working on a grant in order to purchase more speed boards.

Gilbert Kvatek - 416 West Pleasant Street voiced his main concern is the reckless driving and speeds. He feels we need more patrol out there.

Chris Scott - 3340 Whiting Avenue stated that the problem also lies on West River Drive south of CTH HH where they use that road as a race track. She added that it bothers her that people are getting away with speeding over and over. She suggested more patrol and making fines double or triple for re-offenders.

Jessica Sherman - 2048 West River Drive stated that she hopes that in the monitoring of things that West Zinda Drive and West Mapleridge Drive are also being looked at. She suggested putting in speed bumps on those shorter stretches of roads and maybe it would also deter people from using those roads as a shortcut for going around the train.

David Medin - 2101 West River Drive stated that he appreciates all the efforts the Director of Public Works and Police Departments have been putting in. He feels that the area mainly south of the houses should have an additional 2 feet of pavement added onto the 2 feet of pavement that exists beyond the traffic boundary line. He pointed out that it is human nature not to walk too close to a steep dropoff so folks end

up walking in the roadway and not in the narrow 2 feet area that is there. He also pointed out that in the Portage County Bike and Pedestrian Plan, West River Drive is designated as a significant pedestrian trip street as well as it being broadcasted in the Point Bock Run.

Eric Olson - 2025 West River Drive stated that he knows there is documentation out there from 2021 because he requested the Speed Board at that time to put up speedboards and document the speeds people were going. He also pointed out that there used to be double lines painted on pavement so there should be data and imagery from that. He reported that he knew back in 2021 there was a speed issue and now we know there is a deadly speed issue. He feels it is a design issue because when people feel comfortable driving 50, 60 or 70 mph, they will drive that fast. He feels we need to do something that makes people feel uncomfortable driving 40, 50 or 60 mph on that road.

Jackie Schimke - 440 West Trillium Court reported that she met with the 2 principals from the Point of Discovery School (PODS) and they are well aware of the speeding issues with the students. They also said they would be all in for speed bumps along West Zinda Drive as well as West Maple Ridge Drive, known as "the feeder streets". She feels that a long term solution would be a boardwalk along the east side of West River Drive coming off the bike trail so folks can enjoy the scenery.

Sam Lang - 1547 Strongs Avenue and District 9 Alderperson thanked everyone for coming and bringing forth ideas and thoughts and City staff for doing studies. He looks forward to seeing the results of the studies so we can make some decisions that will be impactful.

Mayor Wiza stated that he really likes the idea of an escalator for multiple offenses, to which Attorney Beveridge stated that it doesn't work like that; however, even if you were to get a warning, it is documented and shows up on your traffic record and you are more likely to get more of a ticket for repeat offences.

Trevor Roark - 601 Washington Avenue stated that through being an advocate for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) this problem is not unique to us. He feels it is definitely a design problem because historically when designing a road, the focus is to push as many cars as fast as possible through a corridor and worry about other things later. If we are going to be re-designing the road, he suggested to install flexible posts; which are, posts that would flop down if you hit them and can be removed in the winter for plowing. The only problem with those is it only delineates space for pedestrians and bikes, it doesn't protect against getting hit; however, there is the bright/reflective post that stands high enough for drivers to see.

3. Resolution - A request from the City of Stevens Point for a commitment to eliminate roadway fatalities as part of the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant award.

Ald. Keymer **moved**, Ald. Morrow **seconded**, to approve the Resolution for the City of Stevens Point to commit to eliminating roadway fatalities as part of the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant award.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: **All**
Nays: **None**; Motion **Carried**.

4. Revision and renewal with the McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District regarding weed harvesting operations and equipment.

Mayor Wiza explained how things with the Lakes District Association works with the involvement of the City to which Attorney Beveridge elaborated, explaining that the basic nature of the partnership is the City owns the harvesting equipment and transports it to and from the pond and the Lakes District Association provides staffing and conducts the operations. Attorney Beveridge is looking to fill the open-ended amount in the documents regarding the maintenance agreement amount where the City would step in.

Director Beduhn recommended \$1,000 to \$1,500 dollar range to keep it inline with the original agreement.

Ald. Morrow **moved**, Ald. Buse **seconded**, to approve the revision of the agreement with the McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Association regarding the weed harvesting operations and equipment with \$1,500 included as a max amount for maintenance and repairs under item 6.b.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: **All**
Nays: **None**. Motion **Carried**

Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:11 p.m.