

CITY OF HANCOCK PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Hancock City Planning Commission held on Monday, December 10, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following members present: Dan Lorenzetti, Bob Wenc, Bill Baxandall, Dave Lucchesi, Bill Laitila, Lisa McKenzie and Glenn Anderson.

Absent: Terry Monson and Tony Wilmers

Guests: Roland Burgan

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Laitila to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Lucchesi seconded by Laitila to approve the October 22, 2012 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comments

Bob Wenc asked on the status of the Hancock Post Office now that mail distribution operations were moved to the Houghton Post Office. Glenn Anderson responded that the retail desk was doing well, and that there has been no talk of closing the retail and post office boxes by the post office. Anderson did add that if the U. S. Post Office closed the operations, the building would probably find a new buyer and reuse quickly given its location, size and on site parking.

Dan Lorenzetti commented that the city has established a sub committee to come up with economical suggestions to improve the appearance of the Front St. Wall and cover up the concrete spalding.

Dave Lucchesi commented on some of the content of the Lode student paper at MTU.

Updates/Information

-Heard that Ray Sharpe, Western UP Health Dept. will be attending the January city council meeting to again encourage the city to undertake a complete streets ordinance or resolution. Bill Baxandall reminded the commission that MTU Sr. Design students included a proposed ordinance in their work last year that was presented to the city.

-Discussed Senator Casperson's proposed Senate Bill 1020 that, if approved, would allow ORV/ATV's to cross certain MDOT bridges and use selected right of ways under certain specific conditions. This would solve the ORV problem of crossing the Portage Lake Lift Bridge which now has a gap in trail access.

-Heard that the DNR has turned down the city PASSPORT grant application for \$45,000 for beach dock repair, and reviewed the list of projects that did get grant funds, including \$38,100 to the Village of Lake Linden.

-Heard that the Dept. of Management & Budget, as the request of the Dept. of Human Services, was taking request for proposals to relocate the downtown Hancock DHS office to another location. Proposals were due December 7, 2012. The RFP calls for 12,600 sq. ft. of office space on one floor, with 60 parking spaces. Houghton County currently owns the office building located at 200 Quincy St.

-Review speed zones & limits on M-203 and noted the city council received a petition in November from area residents concerned about high speeds and asking the council to try to lower the 50 mph zone from Atlantic St. West to the cemetery road entrance on M-203.

-Reviewed the October 18th and November 15th Hancock Bike & Pedestrian Committee meeting notes.

-Heard that the Old Apostolic Church may be considering a building & parking lot expansion project for 2013.

-Heard that World of Wood was building a new house for Mike Hauswirth at 1232 Sunset Dr., this is the second new home for 2012, although there will be 7 new housing units completed at 116 Quincy St. when the renovation project is done in early 2013.

The Commission reviewed a final white paper dated Oct. 3, 2012 from the Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group which identify's 2 critical concerns, one is for the need to construct a 2nd bridge, and the second issue is to have training to insert a temporary bridge to cross Portage Lake to show the public it is a feasible option.

The Commission reviewed the 2012 results of the Reshape Downtown Hancock work group that held several meetings. Bonnie Holland has agreed to be the point person on the project, with a goal of accomplishing some of the tasks before the June FinnFest event.

The Commission reviewed the proposed Franklin Township sewer distribution project for the Ripley area, which would include 120 home hookups. The area would run from the county marina to Jerry's Transmission, and the project cost is about \$3,000,000. The township hopes to bid out the project in early 2013. The township would pay a connect fee to the PLW & SA of \$80,700 plus pay for monthly flow fees. Both city council's and PLW & SA boards are expected to consider and approve of the agreement in December. Currently, the area is served by mostly old septic tanks or community cesspools, which are mostly very inadequate.

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The Commission was informed that MDOT will micro-resurface all of M-203 from Gino's to Bear Lake Road in 2013, and repave 2 small gaps on Quincy St. as part of the same project.

The Commission noted that MDOT will hold a public meeting on December 13th, 2012 at the State MDOT garage at the airport to discuss and receive comments on the proposed reconstruct of M-26 from the Lift Bridge through Ripley, and resurface the balance to Dollar Bay, currently scheduled for 2014.

Dan Lorenzetti commented he had concerns about DNR Trail/MDOT highway separation issues when both run close together, especially at night when cars would see oncoming snowmobile traffic.

In addition to the 2013 M-203 resurfacing and the 2014 M-26 reconstruct project, MDOT does plan to bid out a bridge repair contract in late 2014 for 2015 & 2016 construction, and the 2016 reconstruct of Front, Reservation & Quincy St. in the city on US41.

MDOT is also reviewing options it has to operating the lift bridge once the current bridge employees retire, including not manning the bridge 24 hours, but have on call operators available at the MDOT maintenance garage at the airport.

The Commission reviewed an estimate of \$230,000 to pave the DNR Trail from Prospect St. to Tomasi Dr., using a 10' wide pave trail.

Dan Lorenzetti asked that the Commission and staff review the city's parking requirements for larger commercial projects, including school, hospital and churches, to determine if the city needs to make changes to parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance.

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by McKenzie to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary