

To: City of Bennet Clerk and City Council

Re: May 2024 City Engineering Report

New information
Olsson Action Item
City Action Item

Street Maintenance Plan

- Crack sealing: Complete for the west side streets.
- Asphalt emulsion seal coating: Scheduled for week of May 20th for all 22 blocks west of Hwy.
 - Recommended every 3-5 years.
 - Benefits: Slows down oxidation and oil content loss, protects from petroleum damage.
 - Pavement Ages
 - Bennet Ridge (2007)
 - Apple Street (2019)
 - Rest (2017-2019?)
 - Madison, Garden, and Hackberry (2022) will be due in 2 years.

Street Improvements Plan

- Approximately \$80,000/year in the budget for street improvements/maintenance.
 - \$0 spent in 2023
 - \$36,300 spent in 2024 for crack sealing/seal coating.
 - Recommending approx. \$120,000 worth of street improvements for 2024.
 - **Exhibit and cost estimate to be submitted for approval at June meeting.**
 - Can divide projects by street and stay beneath \$30,000 limit for direct award.
- Improvements previously identified.
 - Van Buren from Cottonwood to Elm: These repairs were in our street improvement plans but we ran out of funds and had to cut them out.
 - 1065 Hackberry/35 Tallgrass Cir/Arbor Cir: Pavement settlement
 - 1485 Hackberry: Curb settlement.
 - Culvert at 480 Cottonwood Street, to eliminate the low point in the ditch.
 - Area inlet at SE corner of Garden & Van Buren

Water Supply Analysis

- Rural Water Coordination
 - May Water Usage
 - Monthly: 3,494,000 gal. (63% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 112,709 gal. (63% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 157,665 gal. (88% of capacity)
 - June Water Usage
 - Monthly: 3,748,000 gal. (70% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 124,933 gal. (70% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 170,000 gal. (95% of capacity)
 - July Water Usage
 - Monthly: 2,846,000 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 91,806 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 170,000 gal. (95% of capacity)
 - August Water Usage (28 days only)
 - Monthly: 2,542,000 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 90,785 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 100,000 gal. (56% of capacity)
- RWD met with village board on February 12th.
 - RWD has no short term plans for expansion of capacity. Long term plans include development of a new well.
 - Recommended irrigation restrictions to manage daily flows.

- Ordinance on the agenda to raise fees for users above 20,000 gal/month.
 - **Olsson to present the background and proposal at the meeting.**
- RWD met with planning commission on April 17th
 - Stated that RWD has no ability to provide more water to the village. Recommended the village explore a well near Pella Road.
 - **Olsson to inquire about potential locations and put together a preliminary cost estimate for well exploration and installation and water mains from Pella Road to Bennet.**

Water Main Design

- Project to move forward for 2024 construction. \$150K of ARPA funds have been set aside.
- Schedule
 - May 23: Bid Advertisement
 - June 06: Bid Opening
 - June 10: Bid Award
 - July 08: Notice to proceed
 - Oct 15: Substantial completion.

Sewer Improvements/Rates

- Asbestos sewer lining/replacement.
 - Phase I lining work is complete. Pre- and post-lining videos have now been received.
 - **Olsson to review videos.**
 - Phase II lining and manhole rehab has been approved.
 - **Olsson has requested a schedule update from Johnson Services.**
- Olsson is keeping track of improvements completed on a sewer map.
- Sewer Cleaning: 39,800 LF of sewer mains to be cleaned on a rotating schedule.
 - **City to get pricing and determine schedule.**
- SCADA System Improvements
 - **Design is complete. Will schedule a meeting with Mike and utility committee to explain the components before advertising for bids.**

Miscellaneous

- Downtown street parking stall striping. Would "add" 2 or 3 stalls due to more efficient parking.
 - If desired, Olsson can prepare a sketch for a contractor to follow.
- Possible to raise limit for direct award of construction contracts to \$40,000 or \$50,000? It has been set at \$30,000 for many years, which limits the ability complete projects.
- NDEE Needs Survey has been submitted for the 2024 cycle.
- Highway allocation is \$98 per capita, below the average of \$169 per capita.
 - Look into lane mile equation to see if widening makes sense.
 - Michelle Pietzek with Olsson is currently researching this.
 - **Olsson received info from state. Will run financial analysis.**
- Gravel road washouts:
 - 2 washouts on Cottonwood/Bennet. County to repair. Contacted 5/31.
 - **Repairs have not been performed. Olsson to follow up.**
 - Small washout above Tyler St. box culvert. Monitor. No action at this time.
- Coordinate with state about security grant for water and sewer GIS mapping.
 - This will be done as part of the needs survey submittal to NDEE in December.
- Street Shop: Project on hold due to potential of acquiring an existing building.
- Water Tower Park
 - Comp plan survey includes questions about community interest and desired amenities for Water Tower Park.

- **Olsson to prepare a master plan sketch based on survey results.**
- Daycare Facility
 - School has requested assistance with a daycare facility to help teacher retention.
 - City has asked SENDD to prepare a regional survey for interest in the facility.
 - Other communities have gone through a similar process. Some have a foundation managing the facility.

Development Reviews

- Elementary School: under construction.
- Cedar Brook: under construction.
- Cochrane Corner: on hold. Subdivision agreement is being renewed.
- Evergreen Place: under construction.
- 415 Fir Street: Coordinate with owner on parking and storage.
- **Olsson to provide punchlist of items to be resolved before escrow is released, such as storm sewer cleaning, ditch grading and seeding, low spots in pavement, etc.**

Code Updates

- Downtown Economic Development Plan (Dec-Jan)
 - City working with UNL Community and Regional Planning Program.
- Comp Plan (Marvin)
 - Scheduled for completion in Spring of 2024
- Subdivision Regulations
 - Olsson submitted templates from other communities for consideration.
 - **City to decide on development fee schedule before next subdivision.**

Trails

- Master plan will be incorporated into the new comp plan.
 - **Update master plan to show Jefferson street/water tower park trail.**
 - **Update map to show along cottonwood and behind houses. Show NW along creek as well.**
- Potential Funding Sources:
 - State Funding
 - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Transportation Alternatives: General trail projects.
 - Safe Routes to School: School related trail projects.
 - This used to be a stand-alone program, but is now included as an eligible project type within TAP.
 - Recreational Trails Program: Recreational trail projects
 - This is different than the RTP through NE Game & Parks.
 - Funding window is currently closed. May be 2-5 years before a new funding notice is issued.
 - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
 - Administered through NE Game & Parks, separate from TAP.
 - **Olsson to review grant requirements, discuss potential projects w/ City, and determine if grant app to be submitted in 2024.**
 - Federal Funding
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
 - Application for Action Plan grant was submitted.
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE)

- NDOT reached out to Olsson to discuss options to make pedestrian crossing at Dogwood Street safer across the highway. Olsson has followed up but not received a response. ***Will continue to follow up.***

Tyler & Cottonwood Street Paving (info from 2021)

- Project Cost: \$1,250.000
 - \$95,000/year for 15 year bond at 1.75%
 - \$105,000/year for 15 year bond at 3.00%
- Current Levy Rates
 - Bennet: 0.304020
 - Adams: 0.475267
 - Hickman: 0.430992
 - Springfield: 0.500000
- Current village valuation: \$87.5 million
 - Project would require additional 0.11 village levy.
- Projected village valuation: \$103.1 million
 - After Evergreen Place, Cedar Brook, and Cochrane Corner.
 - Project would require additional 0.09 village levy.
- Cost of waiting:
 - Interest rate risk.
 - Material price increases.
- Benefit of waiting:
 - Potential infrastructure bill funding.
- Additional considerations
 - Funding for trails, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your community as the City Engineer.

Sincerely,



Brian Schuele, PE