

To: City of Bennet Clerk and City Council

Re: April 2024 City Engineering Report

New information
Olsson Action Item
City Action Item

Street Maintenance Plan

- Crack sealing is complete for the west side streets.
- Asphalt emulsion seal coating: Recommended every 3-5 years.
 - Benefits: Slows down oxidation and oil content loss, protects from petroleum damage.
 - Recommend approving proposal from H&L Asphalt for 22 city blocks west of Hwy.
 - **Pending Olsson review of a Sealmaster project from the last 1-3 years.**
 - Pavement Ages
 - Bennet Ridge (2007)
 - Apple Street (2019)
 - Rest (2017-2019?)
 - Madison, Garden, and Hackberry (2022) will be due in 2 years.
- Asphalt crack sealing machine:
 - Only Bennet and Adams interested so far.
 - Hickman, Cortland, Firth, and Filley are not.
 - Recent bids for Firth:
 - NL Driveway Maintenance: \$0.65/LF
 - Pavers: \$0.95/LF
- Additional Repairs for future improvements project.
 - 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.
 - **Olsson to provide recommendation at May meeting.**
 - Can divide projects by street and stay beneath \$30,000 limit.
 - Pavers is willing to do smaller projects and always provides good pricing.

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)
 - Excludes fire dept. testing and hydrant flushing.
- Met with RWD on February 12th.
 - RWD has no short term plans for expansion of capacity. Long term plans include development of a new well.

- RWD recommends implementing restrictions/user fees on high-volume users.
 - 0.25 acre lot (60% lawn) watering 2/3 at 1 inch/week = 16,200 gal/mon.
 - 20,000 gallon/month threshold, impacted lots:
 - May 2023: 25 lots.
 - June 2023: 13 lots.
 - July 2023: 4 lots (wet month)
 - Consider a 2 day/week irrigation schedule.
 - Sod permits in May 2023 = 45,000 gal/mon.
 - Need to issue one at a time (exemption up to 50,000 gal/mon?)

Water Main Design

- Project to move forward for 2024 construction. \$150K of ARPA funds have been set aside.
 - Needs to be complete prior to paving of Cottonwood & Tyler.
 - **Design is back in progress. Stretch goal is to bid in April, with award at May meeting. Completion by fall.**
 - **City will now have to install the mains that Cochrane Corner was going to install. Need to revise agreement for reimbursement.**
- Water fund is in good shape financially and is able to finance the improvements.

Sewer Improvements/Rates

- Asbestos sewer lining/replacement.
 - Phase I lining work is complete.
 - **Olsson to review pre and post-lining videos once received.**
 - Phase II lining has been approved.
 - **Olsson to follow up with Johnson Services on schedule.**
- Olsson is keeping track of improvements 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 in progress by Olsson. Anticipated completion by May meeting.**

Miscellaneous

- **Playground Equipment: Merry-go-round fall zone is 6-feet.**
- NDEE Needs Survey has been submitted for the 2024 cycle.
- **Olsson to coordinate culvert at 480 Cottonwood Street, to eliminate the low point in the ditch. Culvert to drain south beneath Cottonwood.**
- 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 sketch/proposals for area inlet at SE corner of Garden & Van Buren.**
- 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.
 - Needs surveys are not being submitted in 2023 due to lack of NDEE funding.
- 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: under construction. Grading to begin soon. Silt fence has been installed.
- 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 2023 or 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