

Ely City Council Special Meeting September 23, 2009

The Ely City Council special meeting was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 7:00 p.m. on September 23, 2009 at the Joint Maintenance Facility. The council held a joint meeting with the Morse Township Supervisors.

PRESENT: Council members Debeltz, Omerza, Salerno, Sheddy, Zupec, and Mayor Skraba
ABSENT: Nikkola

Also present were: Supervisors Terry Soderberg, Leonard Cersine, Robert Berrini and Clerk Nick Wognum.

The group discussed the annexation questionnaire that was sent out by Director Langowski with regard to extending water and sewer services. Going forward any items pertaining to the EUC will be reviewed by the council prior to dissemination. The township requested increased communication from the city prior to action being taken on an item.

The Council and Township scheduled another meeting on December 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Joint Maintenance Facility.

The council requested a meeting with Ted Trouline, Terry Soderberg and Mike Forsman of St. Louis County to discuss recycling and additional funding options the county may be able to provide to the city. The city is seeking financial assistance for the construction of a building to house the cardboard bailer at the new recycling location.

Business owners have commented that they do not like the new location of the recycling center. It was recommended that a larger turnaround area be developed. Ely is currently the only recycling center in the county that has an attendant on duty, except for the transfer stations. Morse supervisors stated that safety was their only concern with the location that the city chose to move the recycling center to.

Supervisor Cersine stated they would not be opposed to the annexation of the USFS property if the annexation contained a clause stating the city would not do any further annexation in that area. If not, this is a dead issue and a petition would be required from the property owner to annex this parcel.

The annexation of the lakeside lots was discussed. These lots are substandard and do not meet the minimum requirements for septic system installation. The township requested, on the property owner's behalf, the increase in tax rate and installation cost of the water and sewer prior to annexation. The city and township could jointly apply for grant monies to extend the lines to Brission's Point, however cost factors need to be developed. The supervisors stated they would not contest the annexation for these property owners.

Council member Sheddy stated that the city has applied for grant monies to bury the line running to the pumping station.

The township questioned how old and what the life expectancy was of the line running from Burnside Lake.

Supervisor Soderberg informed the council that if they have concrete waste it could be hauled to the county recycling site instead of the transfer station.

The township expressed concern of the logging of the Lucky Boy property. Council member Zupec explained that this would be a select cutting of red and white pine and that the cedar would all be removed. He suggested that the city needs year-round access to the dam located on this property. He also stated records indicate that there is a 1453' closed mine shaft on the property along with 3 other shafts that need to be closed. The city is working to locate the corners and clear up any title issues on the property. The township stated if the city gives them access to use the fire hydrants they would grant access to the Lucky Boy property. If not, then the city would need to put in their own road to access the property.

Potential festival sites were discussed for the Boundary Water Blues Festival, Wolf track Classic, gun shows and a rodeo. The Old Homer Mill site or the property behind the Homer site might be acceptable; however the site contains construction debris. The township questioned if the city softball fields would be a site that might accommodate the BWBF. The council stated that this site is too small to accommodate campers for the festival.

Mayor Skraba thanked all parties participating in the meeting.

Moved by Omerza supported by Debeltz to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer