CALL TO ORDER

Alderman Anglace called the Public Hearing to order in the auditorium at approximately 7:00 p.m. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Alderman John F. Anglace, Jr., President – present
Alderman Lynne Farrell – not present
Alderman John “Jack” Finn – not present
Alderman Stanley Kudej – present
Alderman Noreen McGorty – present
Alderman Jim Capra – present
Alderman Eric McPherson - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – present

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Kulacz, City Engineer

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. BIRDSEYE ROAD (#6 - #21) WATER MAIN EXTENSION

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Robert Kulacz, City Engineer

Good evening. In response to the petition we prepared a cost estimate to extend the public water which would have to be connected to the existing water main on Soundview Avenue and going up Birdseye Road to approximately the center of the property of #21. About 525 feet of water main has to be installed and there is a section of the road that we will put the water main off the road because of the narrowness of the road and the mature trees that are there, we don’t want to
interfere with the root system. So the majority of the water main will have to go into the pavement. We try to go off the pavement and try to save money when we can and when it’s feasible. The city would be responsible for installing the water main and then we would have the water service connection for each of the five property owners that would be put in under the contract. It ends with a water meter pit on the property line and from that point to the house is the responsibility of the homeowner. We put in the cost estimate. We have assumed about 25 cubic feet of rock to be removed. We may not have any rock or we could have more than that but we use that just to get an idea of what could be expected but sometimes the rock consists of boulders that are more than half a cubic yard as well as rock ledge that would have to be taken out mechanically. Basically, we sent out the neighborhood map and the frequently asked questions. I will be standing by to answer any questions that the residents may have.

Alderman Anglace: So what you have prepared is titled Proposed Water Main Extensions for Birdseye Road that has numbers attached to it for water main service connection meter and other charges, that is an estimate at this point.

Robert Kulacz: Right. It’s an estimate that’s based on the unit prices that we currently have for the last several projects. Again, the numbers are only estimates, they can vary if the contractors are busy and if nobody is interested in bidding the numbers could be higher, but I try to keep it a little bit on the higher side to be a bit conservative so the residents don’t have sticker shock when the bids come in, but these numbers are pretty good. I can’t say for sure whether the fire department is going to require the fire hydrant. It all depends on spacing but we added that number in there. The program is available for the residents to pay back over a 10-year period at an interest rate that the city borrows and that’s usually in the area of 2 percent at this point. I don’t know if we have anything less than that interest wise but that’s normally what they been running lately.

Alderman Anglace: So at this point, assuming that we are going to go forward with this, first we have to hear what everyone has to say, but I am trying to get an idea of the time frame. What kind of time frame will it take?

Robert Kulacz: It will take us about a week and a half to two weeks to find out what we have on the table and to go out to bid and after twenty days the bids would come in. Then we would go for an appropriation from the board to start the project, so conceivably we could get this done before the snow falls. Then the assessment probably won’t be levied until the spring of 2018 because we usually wait a year to do the permanent pavement repairs and the assessments are
usually levied in May of the calendar year to coincide with the other water assessments that the tax collector has on the books.

Alderman Anglace: Well that sounds to me like good news that nobody will have to put any money out of their pocket for at least a year. We will open up the public hearing now and see what kind of questions we get.

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone wished to speak.

Jackie Whipple, 8 Birdseye Road
One of the concerns that we have right now is that we all have wells and we were wondering, are we able to keep the usage on the wells and yet have city water, like use the wells for things like the lawn, washing cars etc. I have livestock and I like my horse to have access to well water instead of city water.

Robert Kulacz: Yes, I forget what the water company requires but there may be a back flow dimension device required in the home in case you somehow interconnect the water so the pressure will not go into the system. But they do allow you to keep that. I forget what the policy is because it’s constantly changing.

Jackie Whipple: I talked to Ed and he was telling me what he has to do but he said they had to disconnect and then bring it in a different way.

Robert Kulacz: Right. You probably have to bring in a separate line rather than going into your well.

Jackie Whipple: So it has to be disconnected from the house totally?

Robert Kulacz: I couldn’t answer that. I could try to get that answer from the water company for you.

Jackie Whipple: Alright.

John Zujewski, 20 Birdseye Road
I just wanted to give you a little background on the suffering I have been living on Birdseye for 38 years. What’s happening with my water is I get acidity, my copper pipes are going to hell; iron, my clothes are going to hell, sulfur, I got two filters, I must have gone through four water softners already and the well is shallow so we have been suffering. The well sometimes goes dry. Especially right now. So
you can’t use the water to run anything especially in my case I have a shallow well. I also have to put in carbon filters for the sulfur. So this is why we are willing to spend so much money upfront. It’s like $15,000 to $20,000 to connect for me because of the driveway. In my case my well is in the driveway. So I have to have special precautions so nobody runs over it. So it’s been very difficult for us so this is why it’s crucial for us to get this approved. Thank you.

Wanda Rusiecki, 12 Birdseye Road
I have been at 12 Birdseye for about 15 years now. John covered a little bit of the technical that the wells have on the houses with the pipes, the odors, the clothes, the showers, everything. I just wanted to throw in my two cents. Basic living, sometimes people who have city water, you use it every day and you don’t even think about it but with our wells we can’t use sprinklers on lawns. We learned that the hard way when we moved in 15 years ago from New York. We put the sprinkler on and heard the tapping of the pump because it’s empty. Sometimes when you take a shower, if you do a load of laundry, maybe have the dishwasher going, you are out of water for a shower and I had to run across to the neighbor’s house to try and finish my shower. We have to wait for the water to accumulate back up in the well and then the issue of when we have storms and the power goes out. Our wells have pumps so when the electricity goes out we can’t flush our toilets, we can’t use water, we can’t cook unless we have something else in the house to do that with. So basically this would be a huge help for us. It’s definitely costly. We wouldn’t approach you with this proposition without knowing that it’s going to cost quite a bit with the estimates that we have so far. That’s just for the estimate of 525 feet into the road if we don’t encounter more rocks than the estimate shows. So we understand that it’s a big undertaking, there might be some inconvenience on the roads for people trying to get this done before the snow, but it would be a huge improvement not having to deal with some of those issues when the electricity goes out, the pumps go off, the wells go down, a lot of us have other costs with hydrofracking, putting another well and different things like that and now we are approaching this solution after we have tried a couple other options. So thank you for listening.

Jim Whipple, 8 Birdseye Road
I have called our lives there the tale of two wells. We have a 300-foot well and a 600-foot well. I have replaced pumps, I’ve lost pipes in the wells twice, the 600-footer has gone dry on us a couple of times. Two years ago I just put $4,000 into a new pump, new wire, new piping and the well went dry two months ago. In fact, we are the ones who started the ball rolling on this. They came to
hydrofrack our well and discovered that our pump was pinned in the well with a stone so I had to lose my $4,000 investment that was only two years old. So that’s when we started thinking maybe we should bite the bullet and go with city water. Luckily for us there is enough water to function, they were able to get the pump back up but if something should happen to that pump then I will cut it loose and drop it to the bottom of the well. We are the people who have the most to lose in this as far as the cost because we probably have a 300-footer driveway to dig through to get to my house. I am going into this with eyes wide open but it’s been a long time of rust filled water, can’t water the lawns, can’t wash their cars, all the things that go along with living with a well that doesn’t yield much more.

Alderman Anglace: Anyone else wish to speak? It appears the need is there and you want to move forward. What we have to determine next is by household, whether it’s yes or no. The project would consist of five houses. I see the numbers on here. I see #6. Is #6 here? Lot #54? So house #6 does not seem to be here. No one is here from #21. So what the city engineer will do is send out statements to you asking if you do want it or not. You sign the statement send it back to him and once he gets it back by the next meeting he will bring it to the Board of Aldermen and if it’s a majority in favor we will go ahead and pass it and appropriate the money and get everything started. That will authorize the city engineer to go out to bid and the process will be off and running.

Alderman Simonetti: Bob, did anyone beyond #20 and #21 want water? Have they been asked?

Robert Kulacz: No they haven’t. Once we go past #21 the houses on the corner of Birdseye Extension I believe have water. #21 was not on the petition but we went because it was so close to being in the center of the property line at that location but this was based upon the input from the neighbors that I spoke to. These five homes have the best chance of getting water.

Alderman Simonetti: I think this gentleman wants to comment.

John Zujewski, 20 Birdseye Road

Essentially I did speak to homeowners who are two houses passed me and they said they are retired and strapped for money and that’s why they are willing to put up with their wells. They are retired. One is 75 years old. They opted to pass.
Alderman Simonetti: Bob, the other question I have for you is that’s it’s calling for an 8-inch line. Is that standard, can you go with a smaller line to get the cost down?

Bob Kulacz: It has to be an 8-inch line. The last one we did was a 6-inch line on Cedarwood Lane and that was only because there were fire hydrants on either side of that one section and there was no fire service. To have fire service we need to have an 8-inch minimum.

Alderman Simonetti: I was trying to see if we could keep the cost down for these people.

Bob Kulacz: The actual dollar amount is from $100 a foot to $95 a foot. It’s only a $5 difference in the cost.

Alderman Simonetti: The other thing is I heard some of the time frame. If you get the statement back from the majority of people who do want it and we approve it, what’s the time frame?

Bob Kulacz: I am going to look at getting the ballots back in so they are back in at least a week before your next regular scheduled meeting. Once you give us the go ahead we can have it out to bid in about a week and a half.

Alderman Simonetti: Do you have any of the ballots with you tonight?

Bob Kulacz: I would have to mail them to all five property owners.

Alderman Simonetti: They can’t come in and sign them tomorrow.

Alderman Anglace: That’s not going to expedite anything.

Bob Kulacz: We want to be fair to the other residents who weren’t here tonight to vote. I will mail them a copy of the package and the ballot and we will go from there. We can get it designed and the bid package ready so we can get it ready to go and by sometime in late October we could probably have the go ahead with the contractor.
My concern is, the majority is here, if you send these letters out it’s pushing it back a little further for this project to start. If the majority is here and we want it why do we have to wait?

Alderman Simonetti: There are procedures that need to be followed.

Alderman Anglace: We aren’t going to lose any time by mailing out the information.

Jackie Whipple: But we have to wait for another meeting.

Alderman Anglace: It’s got to come to the Board of Aldermen for funding. That won’t happen until the next Board of Aldermen meeting. But we will have everything sent out and we will have it by the next meeting and everything goes through.

Jackie Whipple: But if they were all here and we said we wanted it and they said they didn’t, then it would have been decided tonight?

Alderman Simonetti: No. We had to have a public hearing first.

Alderman McGorty: The date of the Board of Aldermen meeting is September 8, 2016. So if he gets the letters out and it’s turned around quickly then there should be no reason for it to get pushed off.

Alderman Simonetti: I will say this to you. Although it’s a large investment in the long run it’s a great thing to have on your home. I appreciate your comments and hope it goes forward as soon as possible.

Jim Whipple, 8 Birdseye Road

We worked for excavation companies and it’s getting late in the season and in our own experience we are just worried about what’s going to happen when the asphalt plants close down.

Jackie Whipple: They start to close down in November because I worked for Nagy Brothers Construction.

Alderman Anglace: We have done this before. So it’s nothing new to the City Engineer and he knows the steps to take and he will keep it moving right along.
Alderman Anglace asked if anyone else wished to speak. Being no comments he closed the public hearing and thanked everyone for coming and participating.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other speakers, Alderman Anglace closed the public hearing around 7:30 p.m.

Alderman Anglace MOVED to adjourn the Public Hearing; SECONDED by Alderman McPherson. A voice vote was taken and hearing was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Adcox, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: __________BY: ________________________________

Mark A. Lauretti
August 23, 2016
Board of Aldermen
Public Hearing on Ordinances