

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019**

The Special Work Session of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Geri McCaleb in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Present: Council Members Bob Monetza, Josh Brugger, Dennis Scott, Mike Fritz, and Mayor Geri McCaleb.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Patrick McGinnis, Assistant to the City Manager Ashley Latsch, Administrative Assistant William Weideman, Wastewater Plant Superintendent Ryan Vredeveld, and NORA Director Chris VanHekken.

1. Update Regional Recreational Task Force

- Mayor Geri McCaleb

Mayor McCaleb reported on a task force that was originally founded by and comprised of several entities including: NORA, Four Pointes, Grand Haven and Spring Lake Schools, the YMCA, and Kelly Larson and Mark Kleist. She reported that over the previous two years, the task force worked diligently with many community organizations, consultants, committees, and individuals to figure out the most appropriate line of action regarding how to approach recreation in the region. The task force concluded that the best approach would be to have each organization maintain its own identity while seeing what opportunities present themselves to work together in order to give Northwest Ottawa County the best recreation programs available. McCaleb reported that the task force had done a fine job of bringing, and keeping, everyone at the table. Having such a wide array of representation at the table was a great benefit to the community.

McCaleb noted that the committee intended to continue to meet quarterly to review opportunities for collaboration within the region. She also remarked that now was a great time for this committee to be active, with new Directors taking the reins at many of the relevant organizations. In line with that sentiment, Mayor McCaleb commented that the new NORA Director Chris VanHekken was present, and proceeded to introduce him to the Council.

2. Introduction of Ryan Vredeveld

City Manager McGinnis introduced the new Wastewater Plant Superintendent Ryan Vredeveld. McGinnis stated that the City was lucky to have Ryan, and complimented his hard work. He remarked that it took a strong chemist, manager, hard worker, and overall leader to ascend as quickly as Ryan did to this position. McGinnis expressed that the City was lucky to have someone positioned so well for taking on the leadership role. In actuality,

Ryan was leadership-ready some time ago, but needed the requisite time required for the necessary licensing. McGinnis noted that the board was very satisfied and confident in having Ryan oversee the Sewer Plant operations.

3. Sewer Improvement Project Update

- City Manager Pat McGinnis and Superintendent Ryan Vredevel

Superintendent Vredevel began with explaining that the Sewer Authority project was made up of a couple of different contracts so that costs were allocated proportionately to responsible parties. Vredevel noted that the most challenging portion of the project was the Spring Lake force main crossing. This portion required directional drilling below the river 100ft for over 4,000 ft. He went on to explain that this portion of the project began in early February, took 7 weeks of preparation for the pipe pull alone, and was finally completed the first week of July.

The next project discussed by Vredevel was the headworks building. He explained that this building was where all the flow entered the plant itself, making these upgrades relevant for all parties. The region had three major pump stations that ran through the headworks building: Spring Lake lift station, Grand Haven (Adams St.) station, and one on site that functioned as a gravity line. Vredevel continued that site work began in early March with a scheduled completion date of June 2020 for all parts.

Superintendent Vredevel further elaborated on the upgrades that would take place at each site and expressed how important the upgrades were; given much of the equipment being replaced was over 45 years old. Vredevel explained that it was a challenge during the process of upgrading to complete the work without compromising service, efficiency or reliability. To clarify this point, he used the example of the work left with the Adams Street pump station. He emphasized the point that, while swapping the pumps out, flow did not stop. For the duration of the upgrades, bypass pumps would be on site beginning August 26th and would run 24/7 until August 28th, so as to not compromise the reliability of the service provided. Vredevel explained that they expected a smooth transition, but with the nature and complexity of the work, they just hoped for no surprises. No issues with smell were expected, but because there would be exposed sewer line, the possibility existed. He stated that if those issues did arise, there were measures that can be taken to minimize the smell. Work would be completed during low flow times as much as possible. He also remarked that there were some conflicts that could not be avoided, for example, rain.

Mayor McCaleb commented that she had been spending more time at the dog park lately and that there had been a huge improvement in the smell with the work completed nearby.

Superintendent Vredevel responded that the line of thought for the old force main was that it would be retained. Staff would need to investigate the integrity of the pipe and would be a good backup to have on hand.

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Superintendent Vredevelde stated that ultimately the overall budget was met, but not exceeded. He elaborated, however, that technically some of the individual contracted budgets were over and some were under budget. He explained that a lot of the overages came down to the question of whether the fixes should take place now or later, and many had to be addressed now. However, Vredevelde concluded that the overall budget did not exceed the original plan.

Superintendent Vredevelde explained that the Authority had not been involved in the Ferrysburg lift station project because the individual municipalities typically handled their collection system.

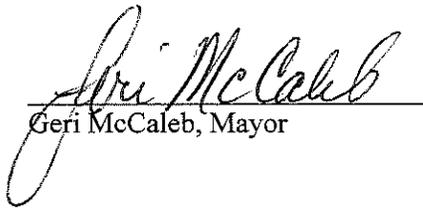
Council Member Monetza clarified the point that the overall budget was on par, but individual components were over or under budget. He asked whether that would change the City's proportion of the work that they would pay for since it was broken down by percentages.

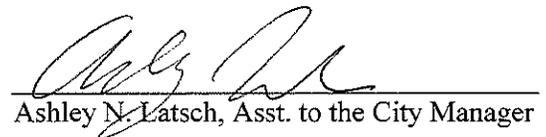
Superintendent Vredevelde stated that he was unsure one way or the other how it affected the City's portion.

Council Member Fritz thanked Vredevelde for stepping up and working hard to get to his current position.

4. Adjournment

After hearing no further business, Mayor McCaleb adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


Geri McCaleb, Mayor


Ashley N. Latsch, Asst. to the City Manager