

COMMITTEE: INFRASTRUCTURE

DATE: April 5, 2010

TIME: 10 A.M.

In attendance: Council Members Baker (Chair), Mauck, Ritenour and Vena; Town Manager Fauber, Director of Public Utilities Tewalt, Director of Public Works Rhodes, Town Planner Rex, and Town Clerk Keller.

Action Item:

The minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

Updates:

Strasburg Fire Department Roof: Town Manager Fauber said a total of five bids were received with Don Largent Roofing, Inc. submitting the low bid of \$30,877.00. He said all firms were bidding on the same specifications and there are actually two roofs that will be completely replaced with the roofing having a 15 year warranty. It is Staff's recommendation to enter into a contract with Don Largent Roofing. Work has previously been done for the Town by the firm and the Town has been satisfied. It is thought this project could be acted upon quickly, once the contract is signed. This will be taken before the Finance Committee, too.

King Street Sewer Line Upgrade: Planner Rex said it had been discussed to do this at the same time as the Streetscape project. Director of Public Works Rhodes is still pulling numbers together on this.

It was asked if this would be on both sides of the street and if it would involve taking down more trees. Director of Public Works Rhodes said this should not affect the trees. It was also asked if this includes the drainage problems from Fort Street to King Street. A study was done on this area, but due to finances, the project was put on hold. More property owners need to be contacted as far as easements, etc. before work could begin. As far as this being done in conjunction with the King Street sewer line, it would add more cost and the Fort/King Street project should not affect King Street as far as digging.

Discussion Item:

Queen Street Project:

Representatives from VDOT attending the meeting were: Pete Warren, Bill Arel, Jerry Copp, and Ed Carter. Interested citizens attending were: Leslie Meaux, Randy Kepler, and Raymond Willis.

Mr. Warren explained the location of the project and the time frame. Originally, this project was to be connected to Route 11, but it has been greatly reduced. The project does include the bridge over the Town Run. The project is now 400' of improvements, from Town Run to the intersection of Queen and Massanutten Streets and will include curb and gutter, parking on both sides of the street, and sidewalks. The work would be in the current right-of-way, but temporary easements might be needed to complete the work. A preliminary design has been done, a public hearing held, and a draft of comments given to the Town. The next step is for the Town to decide what they want done, but Mr. Warren stressed this is not on the "top of the list" of projects in the Staunton District of VDOT. The Town can decide to move forward with the plan as designed, not move forward at all, or do just a portion of the area. VDOT is the engineer/agent of this project for the Town and VDOT does not have any "hidden agenda" and changes have been made to the plan presented at the Public Hearing based on comments received.

It was asked what Town Planner Rex would recommend and he said he felt it should be moved forward. It was said the plan seemed like it was a "stamped template" of

VDOT's, but Mr. Warren said VDOT does not have "templates," but they do have guidelines that must be met. Many of the restrictions are determined by traffic counts. He explained the minimum roadway width is 10' lanes in both directions, and 7' of parking on both sides. If the goal is to have narrower lanes, there are issues that would have to be addressed. Maintenance money is pegged to a 30' wide roadway. If other things are done, parking will have to be restricted. Face-of-Curb to face-of-curb has to be 34' if there is to be parking on both sides. If you change the width, parking is restricted and then the decision must be made as to which side of the roadway to allow parking. Currently, there is parking on both sides of the street, but sidewalk on only one. It was asked if the bridge part of the plan was always included and it was as this was to be a continuation of the East Queen Street project.

When discussing the funding of this project, Mr. Warren said this project is being funded through the Town's urban money and so VDOT cannot take this money and work on other projects. This money can only be spent in Strasburg and so it is not on the "high priority" list of VDOT because the funds can only be spent here.

Questions/comments from citizens:

Leslie Meaux asked that Council please consider the fact that she and Mr. Kepler have spent much money on their homes and with the proposed plan, she feels people will be turning into her parlor. The properties will be unsalable if these improvements are done and she does not think there is space to improve this corner. She asked if any property would be taken away with the plan and Mr. Arel explained some changes had been made to the original plan at the intersection. He also explained some other options that could be made to the curb. There are temporary easements that will need to be gotten, but only a "sliver" of permanent easements will need to be purchased. Mr. Warren said this is not a final plan and the plan taken to a public hearing is the "worst case" scenario so there is room to work with and VDOT's goal is to minimize the affect on private property. They try their best to work with the property owner, but Mr. Arel added if parking is done on both sides, probably Ms. Meaux's fence would have to be replaced.

Ms. Meaux asked why such a large turn area is needed and feels the integrity of the area must be kept, especially since this is the heart of the historic district.

It was asked if parking could be limited to one side of the street in some areas and both in others and it can be, but you need to be careful in doing this and also consideration would need to be given at the intersection as East Queen Street is already completed. Also, the bridge can be replaced and nothing else done, but there would need to be some utility replacement done. There is no curb and gutter and sidewalk on one side and so this will be given up if only the bridge is replaced. There are some drainage issues that the curb and gutter will help.

Randy Kepler said he had given a response to the proposal and also gave VDOT a layout of his proposal. He is not against this project, but said there are many options that should be considered. Putting in a typical subdivision street in this area is not historically accurate. He feels you need to maintain and enhance what is there and there are ways to make it work without destroying landscaping, etc. He has not seen the responses or the revised plans, but does want to be able to give input as the process moves along. Everybody can be made happy as long as everybody works together and the method for this project needs to be found. He thinks there are ways to get around some of the issues, such as the width of the sidewalks. VDOT officials agreed with this, but added if VDOT is going to design the project, it has to be to federal and state standards.

Mr. Arel said before VDOT can move forward with a design, the Town needs to decide if they want parking on both sides or parking on one side or exactly what the Town wants -- the ball is in the Town's court.

Raymond Willis: Said his main concern is drainage and parking. The drainage brings dirt, mud, gravel and drops it into the front of his house. Parking is even worse and he would hate to see parking restricted to one side. Many residents do not have a driveway or garages and must park on the street and there is inadequate parking now and so it is necessary to have parking on both sides.

In discussing the parking closest to the intersection, Staff emphasized these will not always be the property owners and so this has to be considered. Mr. Kepler said he thinks he should have the right to say he doesn't want parking on his side.

Director of Public Works Rhodes said the only time that anyone ever parks on the street in that area is when there is something going on in Town.

VDOT has made comments on the plan made by Mr. Kepler. Mr. Warren thinks the main issue is the parking. Currently, there are 24 parking spaces; Mr. Kepler's plan calls for 12 spaces. VDOT can work with the Town, but basic decisions need to be made. Design exceptions can be gotten, but they need to know what the Town wants. If parking is limited at the end of the street, the pavement is narrowed and there is a problem with this as this project ends at Massanutten Street and so the other side of Massanutten Street will have to be looked at, from a traffic standpoint.

Staff asked what the game plan is going to be from the Town. Copies of the responses from VDOT will be gotten to Council and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Meaux said she would like to be in on the decision process of this, knowing she will be impacted in some way. Council Member Baker said he wants to work with the owners and all meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is the first Monday of May.

Trash Collection Contract update: Town Manager Fauber has been working with Mr. Bradford of Woodstock, who is ready to proceed with joining Strasburg on a joint trash bid; they are also interested in a recycling program. Front Royal currently collects their own trash and more figures are being gotten on this. Toms Brook is also interested in a recycling program.

Council Member Terndrup thinks this should be looked at as a joint/comprehensive project --- trash and recycling. He thinks there is potential in having recycling sorted by the homeowner and profits can be kept within our own County. He feels it is our responsibility to look into the Town doing this independently of other companies. He does not see any reason for not looking at this comprehensively.

It was asked if an extension of the contract with Long could be gotten so that the trash and recycling were running together. Town Manager Fauber will discuss this with Long Enterprise and also with Woodstock.

Much discussion was held on the feasibility of the cost of doing the collection of trash and recycling ourselves.

Planner Rex gave a presentation on the Pay-as-You-Throw project (pages attached here-to). Discussion of pros and cons followed the presentation. It was suggested setting up a "dummy system" to see what the cost difference would be.

Orchard/Franklin Streets intersection proposal: Town Manager Fauber spoke with Mr. Joe Bly and the issues he is having at the intersection of Orchard and Franklin Streets. A suggestion is to make a three way stop at this intersection. It was decided to move forward with this three-way stop sign.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.