

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Workshop**  
**September 7, 2010**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**  
**5:30 pm**

Council Present: Councilor Kuoppala, Councilor Koivunen, Councilor Hoag, Mayor Matos  
Also Present: Jackie Monahan-Junek, Michael Wiskow, Stephanie Friebe, Brian Lillis  
Absent: Councilor Kallevig

**1. 2011 Proposed Budget and Levy**

City Clerk/Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek said the Council decided to keep the levy amount the same for 2011 as in 2010 and 2008.

Monahan-Junek asked if the Council would consider a closed session at the next meeting to discuss negotiations for the City's employee health insurance. The Insurance Committee has recommended the City switch from a comprehensive health care plan to a VEBA health care plan. The coverage would remain nearly the same. The City would begin to save on annual premium costs by utilizing a VEBA plan. Negotiations will need to take place to determine City/employee contributions to the deductible and premium. Monahan-Junek will schedule a preliminary meeting which will include City department heads and the personnel committee.

**2. Funding Grant Avenue/Park Avenue Reconstruction**

The City of Eveleth has been awarded a \$275,000 CDBG grant; \$329,917 Taconite Property Tax Relief grant; and a \$250,000 IRRR public works grant (for Grant/Park Avenue Reconstruction and cemetery expansion). All of the City's costs for the Grant/Park Avenue Reconstruction can be funded by the grants received.

If the Council decides, the City will forego the low-interest PFA loans. The Council decided to utilize the grant funding to cover the City portion of the Grant/Park Avenue Reconstruction. The City will not take out any PFA loans.

The Council will decide whether to reduce/eliminate the storm water assessments; or they Council will assess for the storm water improvements as previously planned. The Council will consider the assessments upon completion of the project and the proposed assessment roll.

**3. Primary Election Polling Places Update**

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek and Deputy Clerk Friebe acknowledged complaints by residents, during the August 10, 2010 Primary Election, that were made regarding the Senior High School polling place. Since the 2008 Election, the City has

combined precincts. The City eliminated three of the polling places (Fire Hall, City Hall, and Eveleth Day Activity Center) and combined voting to take place at the Hippodrome, Senior High School, and Leonidas Community Center. Many of the complaints were issued by elderly citizens who had difficulty walking the distance from the parking lot to the voting area. Monahan-Junek spoke with school staff and the school was not able to suggest another area that would be able to accommodate voters. The current location is handicap accessible with a ramp leading up to the doors.

Councilor Koivunen suggested the City provide a golf cart to accommodate voters who are unable to walk up to the building. The City would need to hire someone to drive the cart for the day.

City staff will work to coordinate a golf cart to assist voters; obtain more visible signage; publish notices in the paper and utility bills; and remind voters of curbside voting.

**The HRA meeting took place at 6:00 p.m. The Council reconvened at 6:25 p.m.**

**4. Discuss projects for FY2011 Community Development Block Grant Program**

Kimberly Avenue was discussed as a potential project. The AEOA would be able to match funding towards the project.

**5. Discuss process for calling for quotes and bids**

Not discussed.

**6. Olde Town Eveleth Revitalization Project Update**

Not discussed.

**7. Visitor – Mark McCarty, WelcomeBackAnywhere.com**

Due to time constraints, Mark McCarty was invited to give his presentation during the regular Council Meeting.

**8. Agenda Q & A**

Discussion took place on options for the boiler at the Eveleth Health Services Park. This item will be addressed at a Special Meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. David Jordan, Architectural Resources, will be invited to attend.