

**MINUTES**  
**Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m., June 6, 2023**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN**

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present  
Councilor John Rauzi, Present  
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present  
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Present  
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Public Works Director Jerry Rosati; Deputy Police Chief Brian Ness; Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering; Bob Streetar, City of Eveleth Consultant

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**1. Update from St. Louis County on:**

Erik Fallstrom and Vic Lund from St. Louis County gave an update on Progress Parkway.

**Highway 53 at Progress Parkway Roundabout (Funding)**

Highway 53 at Progress Parkway roundabout: The project is partially funded. They are looking at construction to begin in 2025.

Highway 53 at Hat Trick Avenue offset intersection: This project is fully funded with construction to begin 2025/2026.

Progress Parkway (legislative earmark): 6 million dollars has been earmarked for this roadway project. The money must be expended by 2027. The County anticipates the project to begin in 2026.

Corridors of Commerce: If funding is received from this source, the cost of the project to the County would be reduced. St. Louis County submitted a 22-million-dollar application request.

RAISE: This is a federal funding source that would pay for the entire project (under 25 million dollars). No City, County or State funds would be required. The projects awarded under RAISE funding are expected to be announced at the end of this month.

**New Progress Parkway**

The new Progress Parkway road is being planned and discussed.

Alignments: MnDOT is responsible for Highway 53. The first wave of public engagements was completed in late March. The second wave will be starting tomorrow. There will be an agency meeting, business meeting and public meeting. The third wave of engagement is tentatively set for September 2023.

Progress Parkway's new road will provide a second access road to the Rock Ridge High School and Laurentian Elementary School. There is also great economic development potential. The County is also trying to maximize the development acreage potential when determining the route for the road. Factors which need to be taken into consideration when choosing the route are cost to remove ledge rock; the former Eveleth City dump is located in that area; and wetlands located in the area.

Typical Sections: The County envisions a 3-lane roadway. There is a 2-lane concept for portions of the road due to the amount of ledge rock which needs to be removed. There is motorized and nonmotorized trail concept with potential of a bike trail on one side and an ATV/snowmobile trail on the other.

Key Intersections: The County is proposing the orphan segment of the current Progress Parkway be named *Wolverine Way*. A roundabout is also being evaluated at Station 44 Road and being evaluated where Industrial Park Drive, the new Progress Parkway, and Wolverine Way converge. The purpose of the roundabout is not vehicular, but solely based on connecting pedestrians to the Mesabi Trail. This would not be a state or federal funded roundabout.

### **City Focus Items**

The City of Eveleth will need to determine whether or not it will install water and sewer lines at the time the new road in Progress Parkway is being constructed. Who will own Wolverine Way which is currently owned by VEEDA? The County will be taking over part ownership up to the connection with the school, but there will be an orphan segment remaining. Would this be a City street? Or Rock Ridge School driveway?

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek reported that VEEDA is still having discussions regarding the school's request to purchase the building at 1404 Industrial Drive.

### **CSAH Swap Update**

The State Aid Screening Board has approved the CSAH swap within the City of Eveleth. The new Progress Parkway, Industrial Park Drive and Hat Trick Avenue will be designated as new CSAHs. There will be an agreement for the City to approve later this year.

## **Industrial Park Drive Reconstruction**

St. Louis County is working through a planning/preliminary engineering process for the new design of Industrial Park Drive. They are hoping to install curbs and gutters in the final stages of the project.

### **Anticipated Timeline for Project Components**

The following timelines are proposed for the four-year project:

- Hwy 53 at Progress Parkway roundabout 2025
- Hwy 53 at Hat Trick Avenue offset intersection 2025
- Progress Parkway 2025/2026
- Industrial Park Drive 2026/2027

Joe Kotnik, lives at the first house on Station 44 Road. He questioned how the new road would affect his property. Vic Lund said he does not know at this point if or how the road would affect this property. If the County determines a route would affect homeowners and right of way acquisition is needed, the property owners would be contacted by the County. The County would then work with property owners one by one for a negotiation process to acquire the property.

## **2. Discuss projects staff is working on with Bob Streetar, Development Consultant**

Consultant Bob Streetar distributed an informational memo to the council regarding Project Planning High-Level Budget Estimates.

**School Redevelopment/Reuse Plan:** Phase 1 of 4 is expected to be complete in July.

**Progress Parkway Development:** St. Louis County is exploring several different alignments for the parkway. Predevelopment work is needed to maximize land development opportunities.

**Shovel Ready:** The goal is to get rid of obstacles such as titles, utilities, bedrock issues, etc. so that property is easier to market. Possible sites include: Alice Location, Industrial Park Drive, Former Laundry/Blackwoods Building, Tax Forfeit Property Highway 37, Gas Station/Convenience Store Highway 37, West Eveleth Gas Station.

**Housing:** The study with IRRR has been complete. They will be hosting a link which identifies all housing resources. Does the City want to promote additional marketing?

The City is trying to find a third party for rental code enforcement.

**Planning:** The City needs to update its Comprehensive Plan. The zoning code needs to be reviewed and brought into compliance with state statutes which would make the application process more streamlined for potential development to occur.

**Other:** The City may want to review the downtown to determine what type of businesses could be drawn to the area. The City may also want to consider Consultant Bob Streeter as an ongoing development consultant to replace services by former Consultant David Salene.

### **3. Discuss possible state bonding projects**

Public Works Director Rosati discussed some utility projects to consider adding to the 2024 state bonding project requests. The deadline is June 16<sup>th</sup> of this year to apply for the 2024 bonding projects.

### **4. Blight ordinance**

Deputy Police Chief Ness reported that City Prosecuting Attorney Michael Kearney would be willing to meet with the Council to discuss alternative routes for enforcing blight. Councilor Lillis acknowledged the Police Department is currently short-staffed. Lillis proposed contracting with someone who specialized in blight to help with citations and enforcement.

### **5. Update on new city camera system**

Deputy Police Chief Ness has been working with different companies to expand the City's camera system to include the recycling center, City Hall, Library, Auditorium, etc. The Council will hold a future workshop for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.