



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Special Meeting – Monday, March 10, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Kesner, City Atty.; Ms. Ledesma, City Clerk; Ms. Welch, Community Dev. Dir.

EXCUSED: Mr. Braier, Mr. Wheaton

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; W. Wehrley, City Eng.; J. Archambo, City Admin.

Mr. Kesner in the Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Variance to Allowable Work Hours for MMSD Project at Hansen Park Golf Course. The Board reviewed a previously granted variance to allowable work hours for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Underwood Creek MIS relief sewer project in the area of the Hansen Park golf course. In February, the Board granted a variance to allow work between 6 a.m. and midnight Mondays through Saturdays with the understanding that the variance would be revisited if there were any noise complaints. Mr. Wehrley reported that staff has received two complaints from residents of Serafino Square, 9993 W. North Avenue, which is the closest residence to this project. The issues seem to be the noise of the generator and the bright lights needed to work at night. Jeff Salerno of Michels Tunneling, 16500 W. Rogers Drive, New Berlin, and John Kittelson of MMSD were present to discuss the issue.

Mark Pettit, a resident of Serafino Square, reported that residents are having problems sleeping due to the noise and lights. The lights shine in residents' windows and, despite windows being closed, sound carries without foliage or soft ground to absorb it. Also, the complex does not have the type of windows that would help soften the noise. Mr. Pettit has complained to the police and also spoke with both aldermen and other residents who agree that work hours of 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. would be more acceptable.

Mr. Salerno acknowledged the disruption to a previously dark and quiet area and reported that police officers have made inquiries at the site, apparently in response to Mr. Pettit's complaint. The lights are turned away from the apartment complex as much as possible but cannot be screened completely. He said that working 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. would be a practical alternative, or they might revert to one shift during the standard hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Due to the severe weather, much time is lost to thawing efforts at the start of each day. To eliminate the use of generators, they would need a new power drop, which could take two-to-three months and cost about \$50,000. The generators are sited at the edge of what is practical in terms of their function and cannot be moved any farther away. Their doors have to be open so that they do not overheat. Stopping them and restarting as needed rather than letting them idle seemed to bring relief to some residents. Mr. Kittelson raised the possibility of working from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. but not operating the generator during the first hour when thawing efforts take place.

The Chair noted that there was concern about completing the work by April 1 so that the golf course could open in April. Mr. Salerno said that working extra hours should help complete the tunnel work in order to

accomplish that. He estimated that about one more week of tunneling would be needed if work stopped at 10 p.m. rather than midnight. Once the tunneling is complete, multiple crews can work during normal hours.

The Chair commented on the importance of maintaining the necessary solitude in the city. It originally seemed that the site was remote enough from residents that they would not be directly affected. Mr. Kappel reported that when the YMCA was doing work that required a generator, they were allowed to operate it only until 9 p.m. He added that if Sunday work is contemplated, it could not begin until noon due to the nearby church.

Moved by Ms. Welch, seconded by Ms. Ledesma to approve a variance to allow work between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Ayes: 3

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Secretary to the Board

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