

**Street/Sidewalks/Yard Waste Committee Meeting Minutes
Vergas Event Center
May 26, 2021**

1.) A meeting of the Vergas Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste (SSYW) Committee was held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the Vergas Event Center. Present was Bruce Albright and Paul Pinke, Vergas City Council, and Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent.

Albright called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Easement staking at 88 Park View Drive was added to the agenda.

2.) For 88 Park View Drive, the drainage easement (and extension) were staked by KLJ Engineering on May 21, 2021. Per a drawing furnished by their office and stakes left in the field, it appears that part of our rock drop structures may not be located in our easement area (assuming staking is correct). KLJ did not stake the trail easement, as they thought the added stakes might be confusing, for now. The homeowner requested that the rock drop structures could be removed. DuFrane thought they were part of the overall Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) storm water permitting for the entire subdivision. He has calls into the MPCA to discuss further.

3.) The next order of business was Yard Waste at the recycling site. Last week, the Hardware store decided to no longer sell the yard waste permits (\$40) to users not located within the city limits. Pinke said his staff was taking questions as to why a permit is needed, if their address is Vergas? Without the Hardware Store, permits are now available from the Liquor Store or the City Office. DuFrane questioned if one of the gas stations might consider selling the permits, or if a selling fee might entice local business participation? Pinke felt if the selling fee was \$4-\$5 each, they might reconsider.

Problems with yard waste continue, with illegal dumping, contractors, no permits, and not following the rules. Based on the number of permits we sell, the fees do add to the City's income. However, is it worth all of the hassle? The site would be much easier to manage and control, if only Vergas residents were allowed to use. Discussion also took place about doubling the permit fee, if someone was caught without a permit. This would be similar to other permits needed in the City. DuFrane doesn't have access to the camera footage, however, it would be very time consuming to sit and watch, trying to catch violators. Pinke said when the idea of a yard waste recycling site was first discussed, he contacted the neighboring Townships to seek their support and maybe financial assistance, they said "their residents wouldn't use the site".

The "blue" recycling receptacles are operated by Otter Tail County, and are open to the public. Plus, Dean Haarstick has a cardboard receptacle behind the City Offices/Liquor Store on his property for public use.

Albright questioned if problems would be less if the City had yard waste and spring cleanup weeks? DuFrane said the City of Frazee tried this, and it cost them roughly \$27,000 annually, and they stopped the program. The other problem they had were people from outside the City were bringing in items to be disposed of.

There was discussion of moving the yard waste collection site to the former Todd Bunkowski property, but landowners along West Lake Street have already expressed concerns about the added traffic. DuFrane said there already is illegal dumping at this site, with used tires,

appliances, etc. He felt there was a need for the City to have a dump trailer, where they could haul things to the County landfill. The City currently has a car hauler flatbed, but that's not real conducive for hauling smaller items.

4.) Regarding East Lake Street, we now have a drawing/survey conducted by the landowner, Tyler Schmid and Franklin Fence. East Lake Street is mostly on his property. Earlier this year, he wanted to install gates into his property. Albright has talked with some of the neighboring landowners, and they are opposed to abandoning this street. There was discussion that this street to needed for rescue personnel, etc., during events such as Loony Days, as other streets to get to the east of Vergas are blocked with traffic. DuFrane questioned if the approach/East Lake Street could be widened where it meets County Road (C.R.) No. 17. This might allow Schmid to fence and gate his property. Albright will meet with Schmid to discuss his concerns and willingness to work with the City to rededicate the road in its current location.

5.) The City is working with their attorney on the dedication of Townline Road. He is in need of an exhibit showing the section line and right-of-way (R/W) needed for said dedication. The Committee will recommend to the Council that they approve a work order for KLJ to prepare said exhibit.

DuFrane said he has "general" road graveling scheduled for next week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by;

Bruce E. Albright, City Council

Council Recommendations

- For the remainder of 2021, sell Yard Waste Permits at Liquor Store and City Hall (people wanting a permit will have to adjust their schedule accordingly).
- For 2022, consider doubling the permit fee for anyone caught dumping without a permit.
- If problems continue to persist at the Yard Waste site, the City should consider use for only Vergas residents.
- Council should authorize a work order for KLJ to prepare an exhibit needed by the Attorney for dedicating Townline Road.

Follow up Actions

- Albright to meet with Tyler Schmid concerning East Lake Street.