

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING – JUNE 14, 2022

MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP SESSION REGARDING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Shaffer at 2:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Shaffer, Phil Bontrager, Nancy Griswold, Jenny Irvine, Lou Lundquist, & Christine Lundquist

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Julia Cogger (CUPPAD), Matt Traedo & Chris Holmes (UP Engineering)

MINUTES OF 5/5/2022 – Motion by Nancy, with support by Jenny to approve the minutes from May 5, 2022. Motion Carried.

Larry noted that a permit request for a small campground has been received and will be added to the agenda, probably for August.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment at this time.

PRESENTATION BY U.P. ENGINEERING ON WATER & SEWER SYSTEMS: Matt Traedo reviewed the Burt Township water system. He noted that approximately 10% of the planned system needs to be completed still. He indicated that the **Lead Copper Final Rule** will require visual inspection of 20% of the system at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Because the system was installed after 1978, they do not anticipate finding any issues. Inspection is done street side, house side, and at the water meter.

Matt reviewed some of the funding currently available through the State. He discussed the Drinking Water Revolving Fund & Public Act 53 which has \$4.7 billion in funding available for water & sewer systems. U.P. Engineering is currently analyzing this legislation to determine which communities can best benefit from each section. He noted that the funding environment is changing more dramatically than the mechanics of water & sewer systems.

Chris Holmes reviewed the community sewer system that Burt Township has been considering. It is a lagoon system that would cover up to Wilson Street. There were many questions from the Commission as well as audience attendees related to cost/benefit, safety, etc. It was noted that if the system was adopted, people within the planned coverage could not opt out. It was also noted that people outside that required area may have the option to join the system at their cost. If they were not on the Township's water system, the Township would determine an alternate means to charge them for the service, as typically it is based upon water usage. Members of the audience asked about costs and comparisons were done to the cost over time to put in or replace a drain field. It was noted that any significant growth in the Township, particularly in the downtown area, would likely necessitate a public sewage system. Matt & Chris emphasized that there is currently not an issue with our drinking water, but if one developed, the State could force a new sewage system on the Township. It is important to plan and watch for funding opportunities.

After significant community discussion, Larry thanked Matt & Chris for their presentation and ongoing efforts to identify funding sources and other issues needing to be addressed.

OTHER: Larry noted that the Chamber of Commerce has asked him to present at one of their meetings on the master plan process. Commission members agreed this was probably a good idea as some misinformation appears to be going around, and not everyone is able to attend our workshops. Larry reminded everyone of the 3 additional planning workshops planned over the next 10 days. Christine noted that it was great to have so many people attend the workshop today and hopes more people will attend the next three sessions.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Christine with support by Lou.