

Borough of Crafton  
Public Hearing  
Wednesday, May 29, 2019

President Levasseur called to order the Public Hearing for the Borough of Crafton Verizon Cable Franchise Contract Renewal, and announced that immediately following, there will be a Public Hearing for the South Grandview Road Reconstruction Project. Public Hearing commenced Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Levasseur opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are no citizens signed up or present to comment on the Verizon Cable Franchise Contract Renewal.

Manager Susko gave a brief summary describing the renewal process and stated that this contract is done as a group municipal contract with the Char West COG and added that any public comment will be recorded and passed along to the Legal Counsel.

Mr. Levasseur noted that there are no citizen comments and that Council will continue on to the Public Hearing for the South Grandview Road Reconstruction Project.

***ENGINEER PRESENTATION***

Engineer Alberto Jarquin introduced himself and stated that he has been working on various sewer separation projects for the Borough of Crafton. Engineer Jarquin announced that the S. Grandview Sewer Separation project was selected out of ten projects submitted to ALCOSAN for GROW Grant funding. Engineer Jarquin stated that the South Grandview Separation Project would include the replacement of seven catch basins, installation of new stormwater lines and manholes, in the area of South Grandview and Ewing Road and added that this project will separate approximately fifteen acres of watershed drainage and discharge it into the nearby creek.

Engineer Jarquin noted that there are three options for the reconstruction of the brick portions of South Grandview and Ewing Road.

- Option #1, to trench through, patch and replace the brick as it exists now, road cost of \$59,000 and an overall project cost of \$232,000.
- Option #2, to rip out all of the existing brick and pave with asphalt, road cost of \$115,000 and an overall project cost of \$442,000.
- Option #3, rip out all the existing brick, regrade the roadway, and replace with brick, road cost \$165,000 and an overall project cost of \$500,000.

Engineer Jarquin added that this project will have an overall low cost, construction wise, due to the close proximity of the catch basins and added that ALCOSAN may reimburse the project cost up to 85%.

Manager Susko noted that the construction on this project would not start until next year and the cost of the road reconstruction could be worked into the Road Paving Contract and included in the annual budget.

Engineer Minsterman added that the ALCOSAN Grant would not cover the cost of paving over the roadway or the complete reconstruction back to brick but would include the trench work and repairs.

Mr. Levasseur explained that by choosing option two, removing the brick and paving with asphalt, the roadway will have a new sub-base and a proper crown which will alleviate the ponding and added that with option one, trenching only, there will be no improvement to the roadway drainage problem.

**Merrie Kaltz, 24 S. Grandview Avenue**, inquired about the separation of the lines and asked if it will help the storm water drain more efficiently.

Engineer Minsterman stated that this project will replace the current sanitary line and add an additional line for storm water only that it will help to remove storm water much more efficiently.

**Richard Gaitens, 60 S. Grandview Avenue**, spoke in favor of the combined overflow projects through ALCOSAN and in his opinion, the trench and repair option would be best both financially and aesthetically. Mr. Gaitens noted that the overall lifetime of a brick street when constructed properly can last in some instances, 100 years, and added that the additional cost will be worth the quality over time rather than pavement that will need to be repaved in ten to fifteen years.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that one big issue with the brick road reconstruction in Crafton is with the gutters and the ability to properly direct stormwater flow into the catch basins. Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the Public Works department does have a stockpile of replacement brick at the Public Works Maintenance Garage. Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that for Crafton to keep its brick streets, a list would need to be compiled of what streets would stay brick and then include the maintenance and repairs in the Master Plan. Public Works Director Kaczorowski added that brick repair work is hard to keep up with specifically when utility companies are making emergency repairs and not completing the road restoration phase. Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that out of Crafton's thirty-two miles of streets, eight miles are brick roadway and added that the cost of brick road repairs and reconstruction is three times the cost of asphalt. Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that one key important issue with the South Grandview Sewer Separation Project is to get the stormwater to where it needs to go and recommends the asphalt option for South Grandview to allow the proper gutters and stormwater drainage. Public Works Director Kaczorowski stated that the trench option will not reconstruct the stormwater drainage system where the asphalt or total brick reconstruction options would.

**Allen Biehler, 101 S. Grandview Avenue**, spoke in favor of the full brick reconstruction option but understands that it is a tough decision to make and asked if the utility lines would be replaced underneath the roadway as a part of the project.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the utility companies will be notified and given the option to replace any lines prior to construction.

**John Boyle, 25 S. Grandview Avenue**, asked how they planned to separate the storm water and sanitary lines.

Engineer Jarquin noted that they will use the existing catch basins to take stormwater away from the driveways and discharge it separately from the sanitary lines.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that, in his past experience working for the City of Pittsburgh, a Forman or Field Crew would conduct a petition and have the residents sign off on an approval and would go with the majority opinion for repairs.

**Dave Bloom, 48 Maplewood Avenue**, asked if Gateway could provide a percentage of water that will be redirected out of the combined system.

Engineer Jarquin noted that approximately ten-million gallons will be removed annually after the completion of this project.

**Steve Palmer, 68 S. Linwood Avenue**, spoke regarding the sewer separation project and asked if it is fiscally wise to start the separation project in an isolated area and forcing residents to separate downspouts now rather than later when the consent order requirements come out and added that there are no backup issues in the area.

Engineer Minsterman noted that after completion of this project the sanitary system will still operate as a combined system but this project will keep Crafton in compliance with the consent order capture requirements and added that when the new requirements come down ALCOSAN will be flooded with requests and Crafton will be ahead of those communities waiting until the last minute.

Manager Susko added that the South Grandview Project was a favorite of all the projects submitted to ALCOSAN and is also one of the lower cost projects that can comfortably be matched from the Boroughs cash flow.

**Dave Bloom, 48 Maplewood Avenue**, asked that when the decree comes down and it turns out that Crafton does not need this project, can Crafton back out of the agreement.

Engineer Minsterman stated that Crafton will not be committed to complete this project until construction begins adding that it is possible that Crafton may not get the funding expected or at all.

Public Works Director Kaczorowski noted that the DEP will not force a community to spend over their budgetary capabilities and added that if the requirements are being followed, Crafton will remain compliant.

Mr. Amendola asked the status of the other grant funded projects going on within the Borough.

Manager Susko added that construction on the Fountain Sycamore Sewer Separation Grant Project is slated to begin soon and added that Johnston Street project was submitted in the past for grant funding but did not get awarded.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary