

The buildings and grounds committee met in the Forum Room on October 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. with the following present: Abby Geotz and Mike Domin. Jamie Skjeveland, Erica Marcussen, Travis Fuechtmann and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Phase III Construction Project – Schematic Design – The committee was provided with an update on the status of Phase III project now ending the schematic design portion of the planning cycle, for remodeling taking place in the summer of 2023. Erica Marcussen, architect at Widseth, provided updates on changes made to the plans following stakeholder meetings with CRES staff for the CRES 6th Grade Pod Enclosure and Media Center Area remodel and the Main Body of the 1976 Portion of the High School – Media Center/Locker Bays/Cafeteria. Most of the changes to plans discussed earlier involved the high school, including the common toilet room, which will have toilet compartments and common sink areas. This plan increases the safety of all students and, if spending money remodeling toilet spaces, the goal is to be as forward thinking as possible. The concession stand was also mentioned as needing light remodeling, such as new paint and flooring. This is noted and will be considered for incorporation, since major remodeling will be happening in the adjacent area. The other area that was changed quite a bit was the high school media center. The committee was in consensus that all of the drawings looked good and that planning should continue to the next phase, in order to keep the process on track to meet a start of summer permit and construction cycle. Travis Fuechtmann, construction manager with Contegrity Group, then updated the committee on the updated budget as the schematic design phase draws to a close. The remodel to the commons toilet room adds about \$140,000 to the total cost. Given the uncertainty of the current construction bidding environment, but with certain financial cushions in place, the budget should be in good shape to accommodate this change.

The other proposed remodeling that was discussed related to the possible junior high band room remodel into a 2 section daycare center. Costs are estimated at \$500,000 for basic remodeling. The School District has prepared a grant application that was submitted to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for \$300,000 toward the total cost. The School District would contribute \$100,000 and other local community partners, including the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, would assist with the remaining \$100,000. The grant award notification is planned to be the end of October. Very preliminary architectural drawings were provided, with a note that someone with actual daycare experience will need to be consulted before the drawings are finalized. If construction is to happen over the summer of 2022, then certain decisions will need to be made by the end of October. The award notification of the DEED grant will be paramount to this decision. There was also discussion about making the daycare remodel a separate part of the plan which could be bid at a different time with construction over the course of the 2022-2023 school year instead of over the summer of 2022.

Proposed Easement at East End of CRES Bus Loop Exit Driveway for Heartwood Main Entry – The committee received some additional information to a question about traffic counts using the main Heartwood entry each day. The Crow Wing County Highway Department installed a traffic counter from August 12 to August 20, 2021 and report roughly 100 to 125 vehicles entering and exiting each day. That equates to an average daily traffic count of 200 to 250 vehicles using that entry assuming each vehicle comes and goes for a count of 2 uses per vehicle. The committee was fine with the plan to approve an easement or sale of this part of the property to the City of Crosby, and there will be Board action to authorize administration to continue those dialogues and negotiations culminating with that outcome at some point in the future.

The other issue with this plan relates to whether there will be a gate placed at the new School District property line just west of the proposed Heartwood main entrance off the bus loop driveway. There has been discussion about using signage to accomplish traffic control. The concern at this point is that if a gate is not requested at this time, the School District may lose the ability to request a gate and have it paid for by others as part of the round-about project at County Road 31 and State Highway 6/210. The final decision was to consider gate options and propose them to the Crow Wing County Highway Department at this time to maintain possible funding, with the request that the gate does not appear to be too ominous. Discussion also focused on the life cycle of the gate and the way to operate the gate, with replacement cost falling to the School District in the future, as no ongoing funding will be available. The main purpose will be to find a way to prevent non-school traffic from entering the bus loop area,

especially at school start and discharge times and during the school day, when that area is used by school buses and students.

Sewer/Water to Super One Closes East CRES Bus Loop Driveway – Detour October 18 through November 5, 2021

– The committee was updated on the construction need to close the east end of the CRES bus loop driveway to allow for the excavation of a 23 or 24 foot deep trench to install water and sewer utilities to the new Super One store location on the east side of County Road 31. This will also result in the closure of County Road 31 from 8th Street NE south. The School District has worked with the City of Crosby Police Department and Rice Lake Construction to develop plans for moving school buses, parents and deliveries in to and out of the CRES site during the school day. This will include a temporary waiver of the one-way street utilization on 4th Street NE so that school bus traffic can move both directions between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. as school bus traffic will need to flow from the bus loop through the lower lot of the main CRES parking lot to 6th Ave NE then 4th Street NE as they come and go from the building. Parents will be asked to move off of 4th Street NE to 4th Ave NE then 5th Street NE to get to the north entry to the main CRES parking lot. They will then follow a pattern in the parking lot that will circle them around toward the sidewalk, pick up their children, and then exit from the north entry. The general detour for the closure of County Road 31 will be to use 8th Street NE and 2nd Ave NE. Crosby Police will be assisting with enforcement of these detour details as their availability during school starting and dismissal times permits.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson