

Argusville City Council Meeting
Emergency Meeting-Project Update/Progress
October 15, 2018

Mayor Darren Wetzel called the meeting to order at 4:38pm. The following were in attendance: Dave Becker, Rod Clouse, Wayne Hagemeister, Jenna Saewert, Tom Miller, Al Woods, Carol Lovejoy, Jon Carlson, Bryan Hovland, Paul Landis, Andrew Michael, Sarah Wear, Justin Hall, Hugh Veit, JoLene Kjonaas, Leslie Flikka, Mark Wiebusch, Justin and Sharayah LaGier.

Wetzel addressed the concern about progress of the project due to the Contractor falling behind the schedule as submitted, and wanted to clarify and determine a set schedule for the remaining portion of the work to be complete before mother nature potentially puts a complete halt to progress. The main concerns the city wanted to address were 1.) identify and prioritize a list of Work prior to potential weather occurs and to be completed, specifically the lift station exposure and other holes throughout the city. 2.) Point in time to cover/stop work, if necessary and for the better of the project, a.) how long to keep working before freezing? b.) Exact date t.b.d. pending weather c.) Cannot leave open/exposed areas, plethora of reasons, liability a concern. 3.) Potential suspension of Work due to temperature/weather a.) How to go about that, considering the original September 7th completion date. Wetzel then opened the floor to representatives from L2 Construction to address the items mentioned. Paul Landis, and Jon Carlson were the two representing and responding during discussion.

L2 stated that they had 12 new crew members on site and have continued work to progress the project. They will hire a couple of independent contractors for excavating and blading the roads, however all work will be through L2.

The curb stop boxes were a priority to get them done before freeze and the indicators. L2 will go door-to-door to notify residents to be aware of location and changes, use caution when plowing and inform the residents that in the spring each site will be cleaned up, seeded, etc., returned to fix it once things settle and thaw.

Major holes left this Fall must be backfilled in at the cost of L2, and any potential cost to fill and dig up in the spring for the completion of unfinished work will be at their expense, not the City's.

Roads need to be graded, L2 will hire out for that work. Hagemeister offered two additional contacts for experienced workers in that field, since it is urgent to get the roads in a serviceable condition before freezing. L2 wanted to put class 5 on top once they are graded and it was determined to wait until spring since it would not be effective this late in the year. Wetzel emphasized the importance of having the roads serviceable and safe for the winter, for the safety of the residents.

Council, L2, and Moore Engineering (Moore) spent time reviewing and discussing the most current progress schedule and task list that was presented at the previous council meeting. The progress schedule provided by L2 had a total of 16 items and it was concluded that the first 12 items are very critical for completion yet this year (weather permitting).

1. There are 3 gate valves remaining, and they should be finished by the end of this week.
2. Curbstops, an estimated 25 remaining and need to go around and inspect each one. It was determined that because of the quantity remaining, that portion will wait until spring to complete.

3. Casing and sewer at highway and railroad- RR done, highway this week
4. Sewer repair on Centennial Dr.- spot repair and manhole 1&2
5. 3rd & 4th St. Sewer, done until big tree, work on 209 3rd street should be done in 2 days, then bridge and culvert, done by Nov.1st
6. Drake Sewer culvert- Nov. 1st
7. Lynn Dawn dr. Sewer repair and replace-Nov.1st
8. Drake Ave- 2 spot repairs, manhole
9. Aldrich Ave-repair
10. Drake Ave- Manhole #13
11. Drake Ave- spot repairs
12. Sewer service installs

The task list was agreed upon by the City and L2. The underground work is the main priority. Both parties are not as concerned at this time about new manhole covers, concrete, or clean up (which are a lesser priority); although, these lesser items should still be attempted for completion yet this year. Wetzel reiterated the importance of getting as much done in the ground as possible. L2 agreed on the urgency and wanted to be in contact with the City, Moore throughout the remainder of the project for as long as weather allows continuance of work and as determined by L2. It was agreed to have a conference phone call between Mayor Wetzel and available city council members, Justin Hall of Moore Engineering and Jon Carlson of L2 Contracting approximately every 3 days, at minimum of 2 times per week. The purpose of the call is to keep the communication open between all parties and keep the task list up to date, progress reports, and to adjust priorities as they may change as the weather gets colder.

Council Member Rod Clouse spoke of the importance of the City Council representing the city and the residents giving the residents a voice. He mentioned how the residents have been very patient and understanding and as winter approaches everyone is getting anxious. He talked about the residents' ability to adapt to not having running water, difficulty getting around the city-especially the school bus and garbage truck; the residents have been very understanding, even more so considering the completion date in September. Clouse reminded L2 that they are doing this project for the people, the residents of the city of Argusville.

Discussion continued about the project. It was mentioned that site restoration was a primary concern for the residents and Wetzel suggested having a skid steer go around town and clean up work areas as they are completed and also looking around the already completed areas and taking a little time to make things look better.

Justin from Moore stated that the sanitary sewer is a priority and that there is some defective work that L2 needs to complete on the south end of Drake Avenue.

It was determined that the first follow up phone call between the three parties will be on this Friday, October 19th. Determining an exact end date will be discussed and projected throughout these frequent phone calls, at this time a specific date was not set, but agreed that before freezing is ideal.

Representative from Moore, Hugh Veit, discussed the contract specifically, stating that any suspension needed to be "for the good of the project" as opposed to being dictated by the Owner/Engineer, and it was determined that weather conditions are the determining factor dictating the progress of the project and contractors ability to complete the work. Veit also stated that any suspension because of weather would not entitle the Contractor to an extension of time, to which all agreed.

At that time Wetzel opened up the floor to the residents to ask questions or state concerns about the project. He stated that anyone who has contacted the City or Moore, it has been documented and will be addressed in a timely manner, potentially in spring, should the work not get completed this year. Bryan Hovland stated that he was concerned about the condition of the roads, ditches, driveways, drainage, etc. that has been damaged by the contractors. Wetzel addressed the topic and stated that the contract with L2 assures residents that their property will be “restored to pre-existing conditions”, however due to the timeline, it may potentially need to be addressed in the spring.

Carol Lovejoy expressed concern about standing water in the ditch by her house and across the street (Drake Ave) from her. Jon Carlson of L2 stated that the work in the area near her home would be complete this week and things should start to drain properly.

There were no further comments or questions from the residents in attendance.

L2 Contracting asked the City for the allowance of half-day workdays on Sundays. On behalf of the City, Moore responded by quoting the contract agreement, that the only days off required are national holidays. It was mentioned that the work day should be from sun up to sun down and that L2 is expected to work 7 days a week given the circumstances of the urgency of the project at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:44pm.

Next city council meeting is November 5, 2018 at 7pm.

Minutes completed by Council Member, Jenna Saewert