

## Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, January 3, 2016

**Present:** A. Bailey, D. Bjerkness, K. Kolodge, R. Maki, J. Rock, Mayor Hallback

**Absent:** S. Langley

**Staff:** J. Barclay, N. Klassen

**Other:** M. Bohren, WLSSD; T. Proulx, D. Brenner, Carlton Co.; J. Lund, Pine Journal

### WLSSD Update

- Ms. Bohren, Executive Director of WLSSD, outlined what WLSSD does and who they serve.
- WLSSD develops and regulates the policies and regulations for waste disposal and waste management. The sanitary district dictates the governances and is made up of 9 board members from Duluth, Cloquet, St. Louis and Carlton Counties.
- Ms. Bohren reviewed the job description of the Board and subcommittees and gave examples of board responsibilities.
- Ms. Bohren gave an explanation of how the waste water side and solid waste side of WLSSD are funded differently. Board members deal with issues on both sides.
- Explanation of WLSSD's operating costs and their major customers.
- Ms. Bohren gave an overview of the 2017 goals with energy self-sufficiency being the major focus. She also gave a quick review of the 2017 budget vs. the 2016 budget.
- Bruce Alghren is resigning his term as the Cloquet representative as of January 31, 2017. A replacement is needed to fill the remainder of his term which expires June 30, 2017. Ms. Bohren has asked Council members to consider replacing Mr. Ahlgren.

### County Commissioner Update

- Mr. Brenner and Mr. Proulx were present to give an update on projects and issues taking place throughout Carlton County.
- The main focus currently is the county jail study which is looking at facility and treatment needs. The study has the potential for a 100-120 bed jail vs the current 40 bed jail. A site has not been selected.
- Mr. Proulx stressed the need for sober housing in the county. Currently, there is no place for addicts to go when they get out of treatment.
- Discussion of the space needs for county buildings. Looking into a remodel of the Barnum Garage due to its limited size for storing equipment. The community services building is currently at capacity and they are renting space at other buildings.
- Discussion on the FDL land swap.
- Mr. Brenner noted a utility lawsuit regarding overpayment by utility companies. The outcome could potentially be a big issue for the county.
- Broadband throughout the entire county is another current issue. A study has been completed and was recently presented to the County.
- The Councilors and Commissioners agreed there should be updates between the County/City more frequently.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger  
City Administrator