

DRAFT
RAMSEY COUNTY
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

The Ramsey County Capital Improvement Program Citizens' Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 5, 2020, via Zoom.

Members Present: Chair James Miller, Gary Bank, Logan Beere, Barb Garn, Sue Hauwiller, Dennis Larson, Shaun McClary, Devon Pohlman, Thomas Rupp, and Lue Vang.

Staff Present: Alex Kotze, Jean Krueger, Steve Kuhn, Mark McCabe, Tom Och, Ryan Ries, Ted Schoenecker and Joua Vang.

1) Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and welcomed everybody to the first ever CIPAC meeting via Zoom.

2) Approve minutes of December 5, 2019

Chair Miller asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of December 5, 2019. A motion was moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded. Roll was called as all in favor. Motion carried.

3) Introduction of new CIPAC member

Barb Garn was introduced as a new CIPAC member from District 2. Ms. Garn briefly described her work and civic background. Ms. Garn was welcomed to the Committee by the CIPAC members and staff.

4) Introduction of new Ramsey County Chief Financial Officer

Alexandra (Alex) Kotze was introduced as the new Ramsey County Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Ms. Kotze mentioned that she became the new CFO in early March 2020. She also described her prior work background and personal background. Ms. Kotze was welcomed to the Committee by CIPAC members.

5) Public Works 2021 CIP project/transportation funding changes

Ted Schoenecker, Public Works Director presented a map showing Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) throughout the county. The map was highlighted showing various road projects. Mr. Schoenecker also presented Transportation Capital Funding information. Funding comes from many sources such as County State Aid (CSAH), Wheelage Tax, the County CIP, County turnback, Other Agencies (such as Cities), State (i.e. General Obligation bonds), Federal, Transit Projects Regional Railroad Levy, and Transit Projects Sales Tax. The 2021 CSAH portion is decreasing by about 15% or \$2M. The 2021 CIP Wheelage Tax portion is decreasing by about \$1.2M. This equates to about 6 to 7 miles of mill and overlay projects. The 5-year TIP for 2021-2025 is currently being developed. The question was asked of how projects are prioritized. The projects are prioritized based on a Pavement Condition Index, traffic volumes and safety (such as conversion from 4 lanes to 3 lanes). While traffic flow affects the conditions of roads, the weather is the main driving force to road conditions. A question was asked about State General Obligation bonds in relation to the County. This is mainly determined by having project/community partners involved in the respective road projects.

6) Highland Arena Site Improvement project

Mark McCabe, Parks and Recreation Director and Ryan Ries, Parks and Recreation Manager presented information on the Highland Arena Site Improvement project. The original project was approved by the County Board as a Parking Lot Redevelopment project. The scope of the project changed with the partnering of the St. Paul Regional Water Services to combine the reservoir demolition into the project. The project also provides improved pedestrian access, such as the addition of a sidewalk.

7) 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget changes

Ms. Kotze discussed the changes to the 2021 CIP Budget to be approved by the County Board in December 2020. The overall amount of Funding for Affordable Housing Investments for \$5.2M was added. This is funded from the Golf Study Projects of \$2.4M and \$2.8M from the Maplewood Library Renovation which will be funded from the fund balance of the Library Operating Fund. The other \$3.7M for Affordable Housing Investments is coming from the 2020 Golf Study Projects. The \$5.2M from 2021 and \$3.7M from 2020 gives the Affordable Housing Investments budget a total amount of \$8.9M. Mr. Kuhn noted that the Affordable Housing Investments change along with the Public Works projects reduction of \$3.2M and the net \$0 change for the Highland Arena Site project gives an overall change to the 2021 budget of a minus \$454,955.

Ms. Kotze also explained that the bonding for 2021 will occur earlier in the process. This is to coincide with the bonding for the Energy Recycling Center, to take advantage of low interest rates, and to provide bond proceeds to projects earlier in the year instead of the traditional June/July timeframe.

A motion was moved to recommend approval of the 2021 CIP budget changes. Motion was seconded. Roll was called as all in favor. Motion carried.

8) 2021 CIPAC Meeting Dates

Mr. Miller noted the CIPAC meeting dates in the spring of 2021 will involve the project requests for funding in budget years 2022 and 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2021, either in-person or via Zoom.

9) Other

Nothing was noted.

10) Set Next Meeting Date – February 4, 2021 7:30 a.m.

The location of the February meeting is to-be-determined.

11) Adjourned

Upon the appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Kuhn
CIPAC Coordinator